CIPHER

Vol. 3

by Minako Narita

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CIPHER BIOS

Siva & Cipher

Siva (Jake) & Cipher (Roy)- Identical twin brothers made famous by their childhood acting success Now, they share not just a face, but a single identity Trading off attending school and acting auditions, it is nearly impossible to tell them apart Or is it?

Anise

Schoolmate of Siva (and Cipher) She is intrigued by their shared identity and becomes closer to the twins to discover the purpose of their secret.

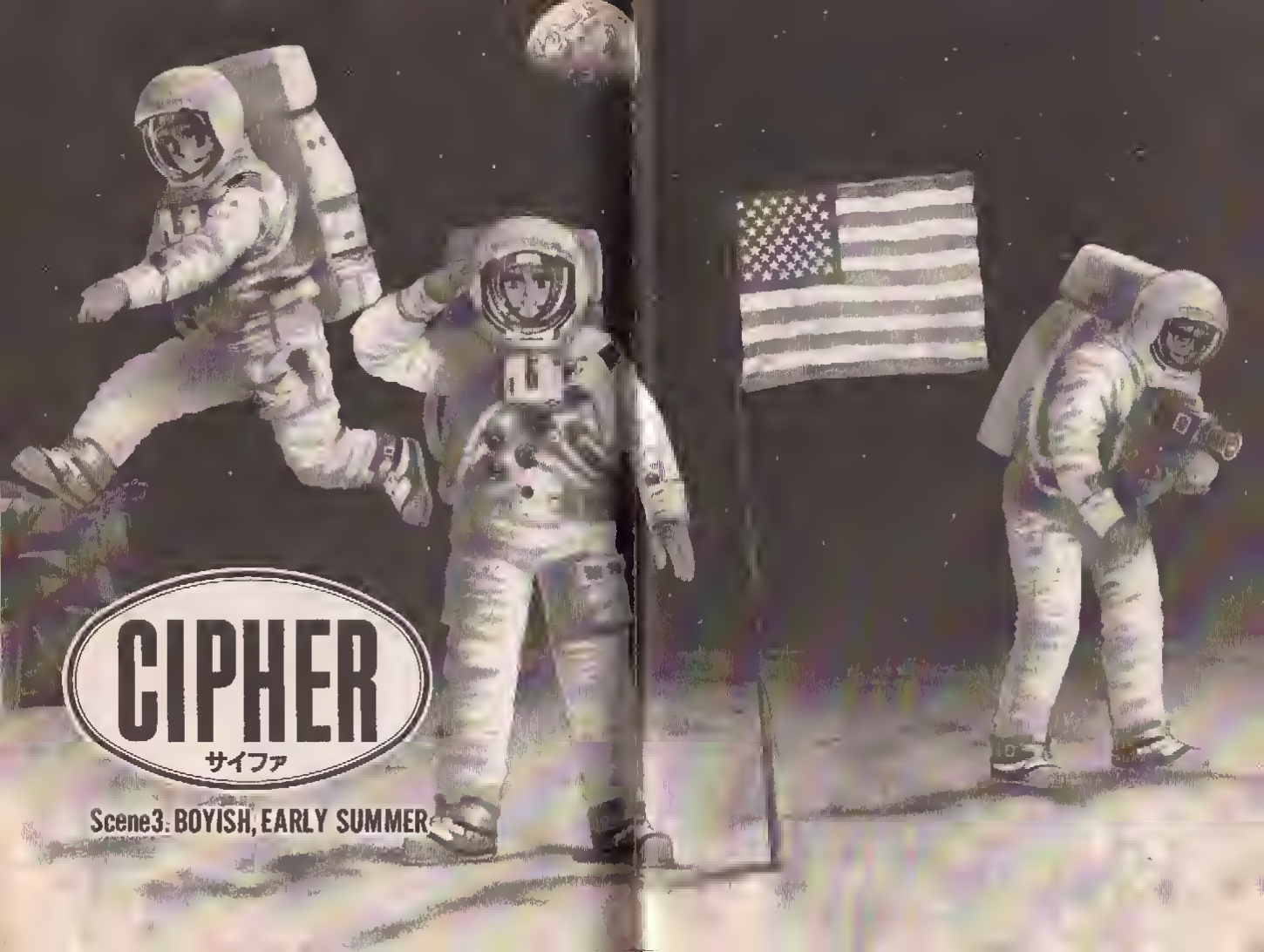
Rob

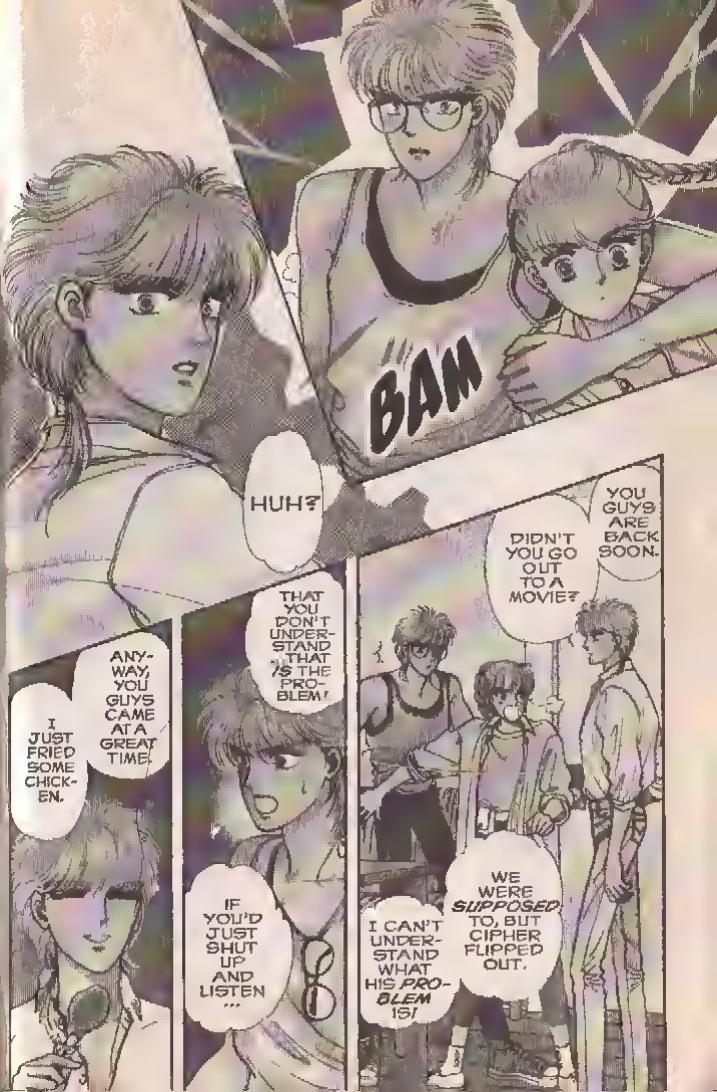
Anise's dad, who she lives with He is very supportive of everything his daughter does, and reluctantly allows her to move in with the twins to satisfy her curiosity

Jessica

Anise's mother A dead ringer for Madonna, she takes care of Anise's brother Martin Even though Anise lives with her dad, she and her mom remain close

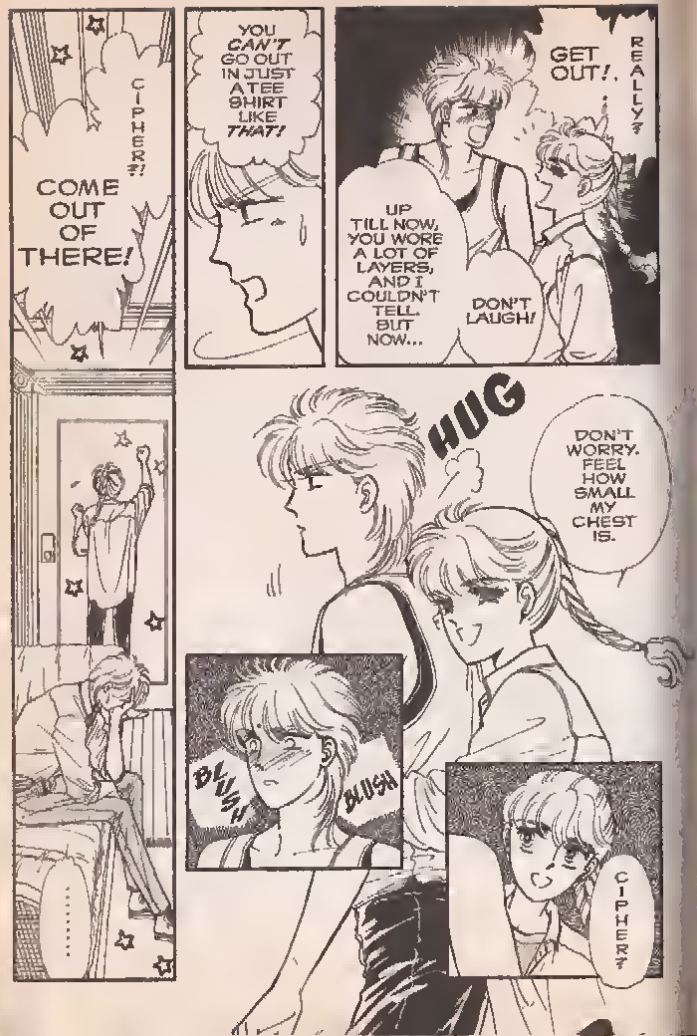
CIPHER
Roy Rang
17 years old
WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, I JUST LOVE WOMEN.
THE BEST SEASON OF THE YEAR HAS FINALLY ROLLED AROUND.
AH, WOMEN
THEIR BREASTS
THEIR ARMS
THEIR LEGS
CIPHER!!
SLIP

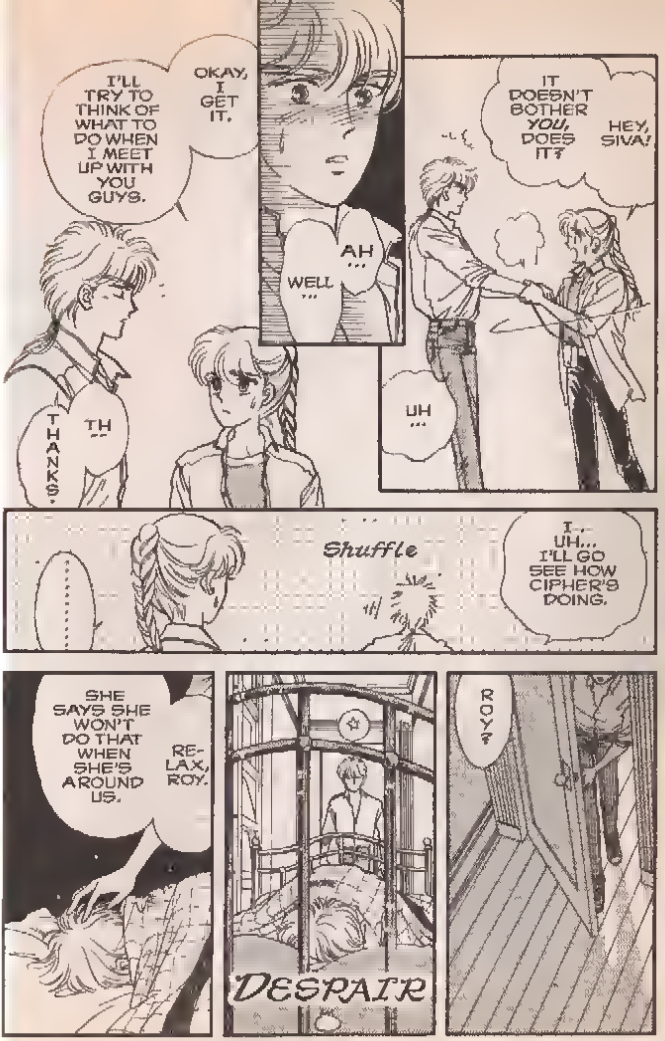

CIPHER
サイファ
Scene3: BOYISH, EARLY SUMMER

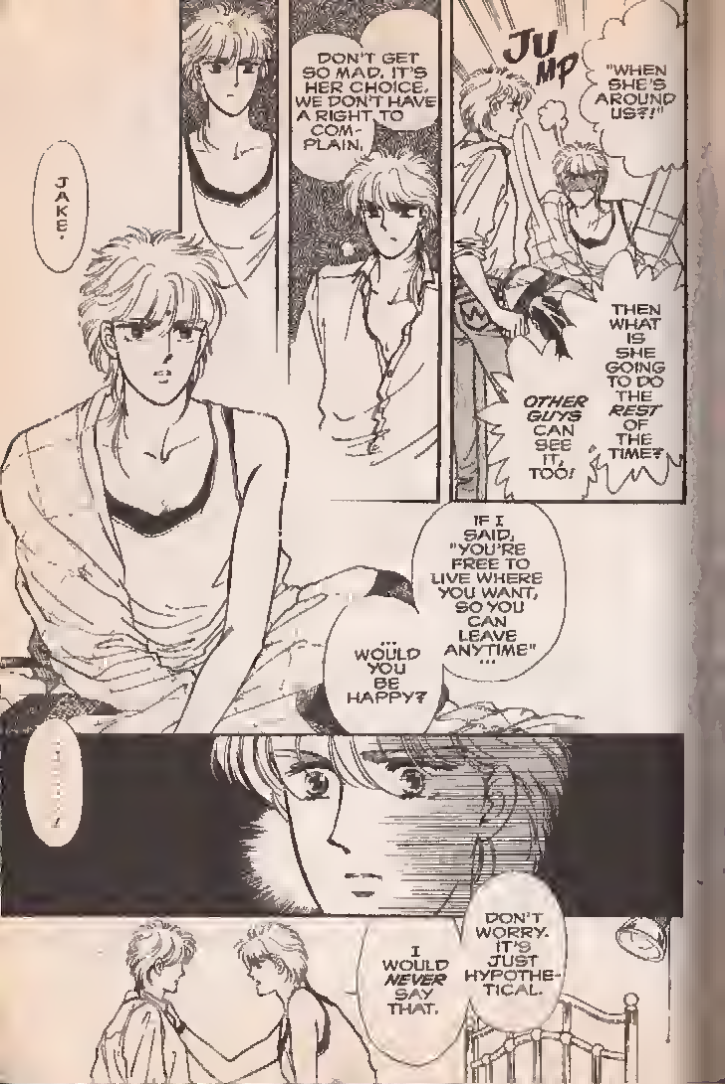

BAM
HUH?
YOU GUYS ARE BACK SOON.
DIDN'T YOU GO OUT TO A MOVIE?
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO, BUT CIPHER FLIPPED OUT.
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HIS PROBLEM IS!
THAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT IS THE PROBLEM!
IF YOU'D JUST SHUT UP AND LISTEN ...
ANYWAY, YOU GUYS CAME AT A GREAT TIME!
I JUST FRIED SOME CHICKEN.

D'YA LIKE IT?
YEAH, IT'S GREAT!
HAND MADE
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!
SAYS THE GUY WHO JUST ATE SOME
SHUT UP!
I'M TAKING THIS THING OFF.
JEEZ, IT'S HOT!
NO!
HE MADE ME PUT IT ON RIGHT WHEN WE MET UP. WHAT FOR?
UM ...
ANISE, YOU ...
AND WHAT ABOUT THE MOVIE?
WE'RE NOT GOING! NOW JUST LEAVE THE SHIRT ON!
!
DON'T TAKE IT OFF! LEAVE IT ON!
ISN'T THAT CI-PHER'S SHIRT?
BUT WHY?

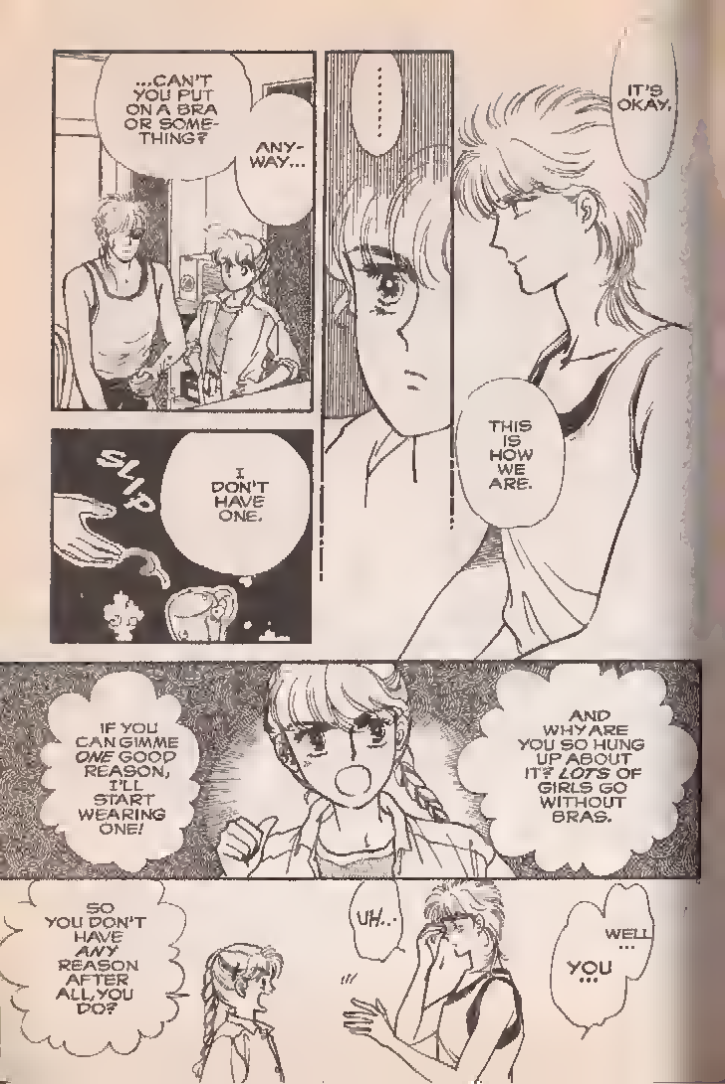
POUT
YOU'RE NOT WEARING A BRA, ARE YOU?
I SEE.
YEAH.
I'M NOT WEARING ONE.
AND YOU *NOTICED* THAT RIGHT OFF, HUH?
HA HA HA HA
OH, IS *THAT* WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU?


REALLY?
GET OUT!
DON'T LAUGH!
UP TILL NOW, YOU WORE A LOT OF LAYERS, AND I COULDN'T TELL. BUT NOW...
YOU CAN'T GO OUT IN JUST A TEE SHIRT LIKE THAT!
CIPHER?!
COME OUT OF THERE!
.....
HUG
DON'T WORRY. FEEL HOW SMALL MY CHEST IS.
BLUSH
BLUSH
CIPHER?


I'LL TRY TO THINK OF WHAT TO DO WHEN I MEET UP WITH YOU GUYS.
OKAY, I GET IT.
AH ...
WELL ...
IT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU, DOES IT?
HEY, SIVA!
UH ...
TH ...
THANKS.
Shuffle
I, UH... I'LL GO SEE HOW CIPHER'S DOING.
SHE SAYS SHE WON'T DO THAT WHEN SHE'S AROUND US.
RE-LAX, ROY.
DESPAIR
ROY?


JAKE.
DON'T GET SO MAD. IT'S HER CHOICE. WE DON'T HAVE A RIGHT TO COM-PLAIN.
JU MP
"WHEN SHE'S AROUND US?!"
THEN WHAT IS SHE GOING TO DO THE REST OF THE TIME?
OTHER GUYS CAN SEE IT, TOO!
IF I SAID, "YOU'RE FREE TO LIVE WHERE YOU WANT, SO YOU CAN LEAVE ANYTIME" ...
... WOULD YOU BE HAPPY?
.....!
I WOULD NEVER SAY THAT.
DON'T WORRY. IT'S JUST HYPOTHE-TICAL.

BECAUSE WHATEVER HAPPENS, I CARE ABOUT YOU, JAKE.
EVEN IF I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE, I'D WANT YOU TO STAY.
AAHH!!
OKAY, ENOUGH. I HAVE TO GO DO DISHES NOW.
I LOVE YOU.
AND SIVA ENDS UP LOOKING GOOD.
I FEEL KINDA SORRY FOR YOU. IT'S LIKE YOU ALWAYS GET PUSHED AROUND.
BUT IN REALITY IT'S MORE FIFTY-FIFTY, ISN'T IT?
AT FIRST IT LOOKS LIKE SIVA DOES ALL THE HOUSEWORK.
I GUESS SO. I'M COOL WITH IT.
Same pattern as always
SPLISH
SPLASH


...CAN'T YOU PUT ON A BRA OR SOMETHING?
ANYWAY...
SLIP
I DON'T HAVE ONE.
.....
IT'S OKAY.
THIS IS HOW WE ARE.
IF YOU CAN GIMME ONE GOOD REASON, I'LL START WEARING ONE!
AND WHY ARE YOU SO HUNG UP ABOUT IT? LOTS OF GIRLS GO WITHOUT BRAS.
SO YOU DON'T HAVE ANY REASON AFTER ALL, YOU DO?
UH...
WELL... YOU...

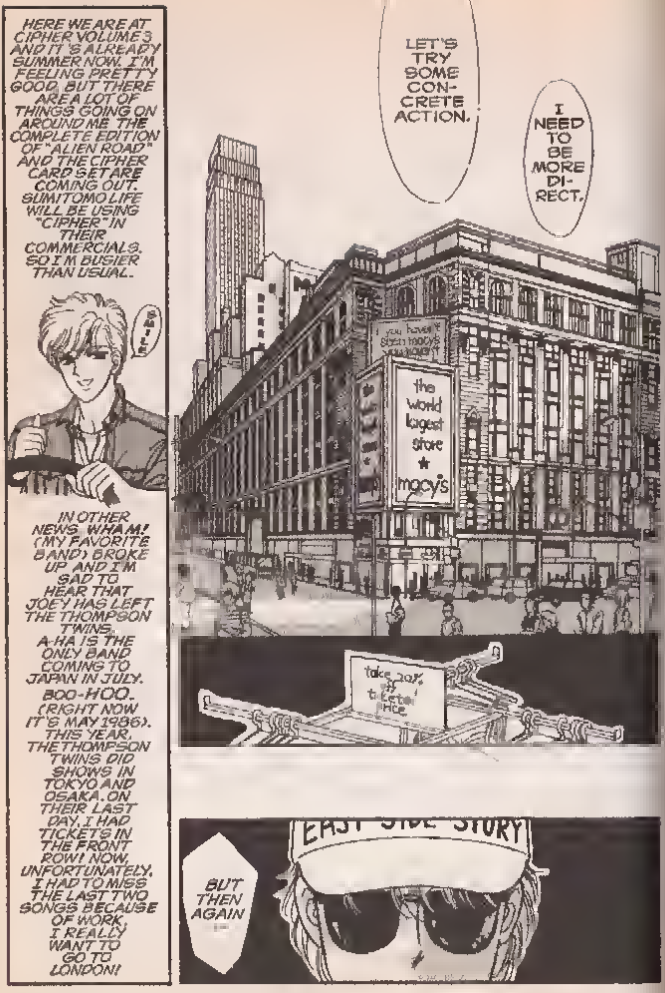
NO WAY AM I GONNA WEAR THAT UNCOMFORT-ABLE THING!
THEN I'M GONNA DO WHAT I PLEASE.
RINNNGG
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ

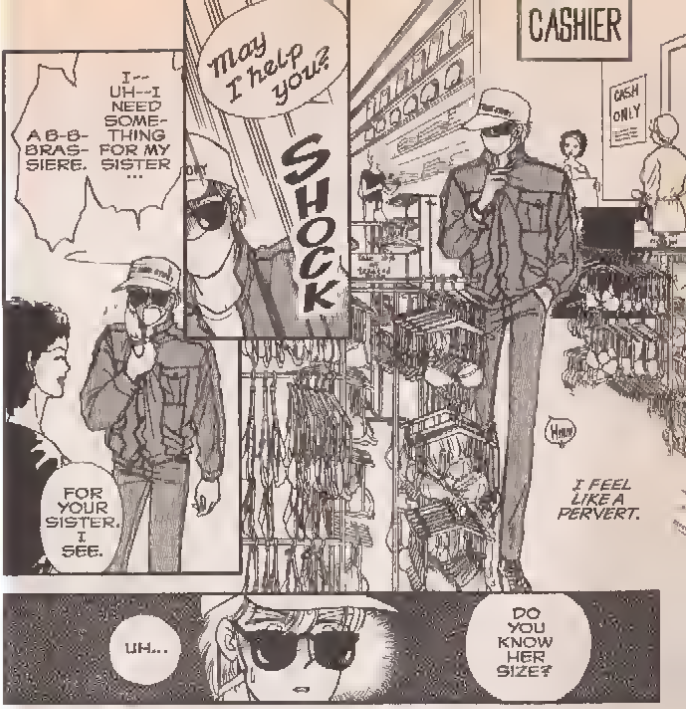
CON
SAY, ANISE, YOU REALLY SHOULD START WEARING A BRA.
NO WAY!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "NO WAY?"
AAGH!
WHY DOES EVERY-BODY KEEP TALKING ABOUT THIS?!
SILENCE
I HATE THAT KIND OF TALK!
YOU ALL SAY, "YOU HAVE TO DO THAT BECAUSE YOU'RE A GIRL."
I'LL NEVER DO SOME-THING JUST BECAUSE EVERYONE SAYS I'M SUPPOSED TO!
IT DIDN'T WORK.

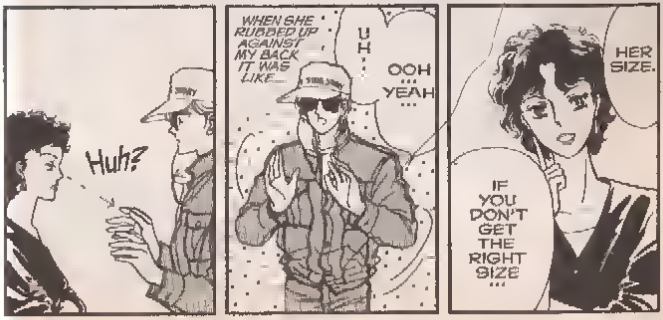
SHE WAS REALLY STUB-BORN ABOUT IT.
SHE WOULD-N'T EVEN LISTEN.
Ahhh
JEN.
DOESN'T SHE REALIZE THAT SHE'S A GIRL?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
DO YOU THINK OF ANISE AS A GIRL?
RUTH...
...DON'T GET ME WRONG.
ANISE AND MY RELATION-SHIP HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH LOVE.
.....
RUTH LIKES "SIVA."
!

...
WELL THEN, WHAT KIND OF RELATION-SHIP DO YOU HAVE?
REALLY!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT LATER, BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT IS RIGHT NOW.
I WORRY ABOUT HER AS A FRIEND.
NO ...
IT'S MORE LIKE PATERNAL LOVE.
RINGGGG
C'MON!
YOU MEAN SHE'S LIKE A CHILD TO YOU?
YEAH.
THAT GIRL'S LIKE AN INFANT.

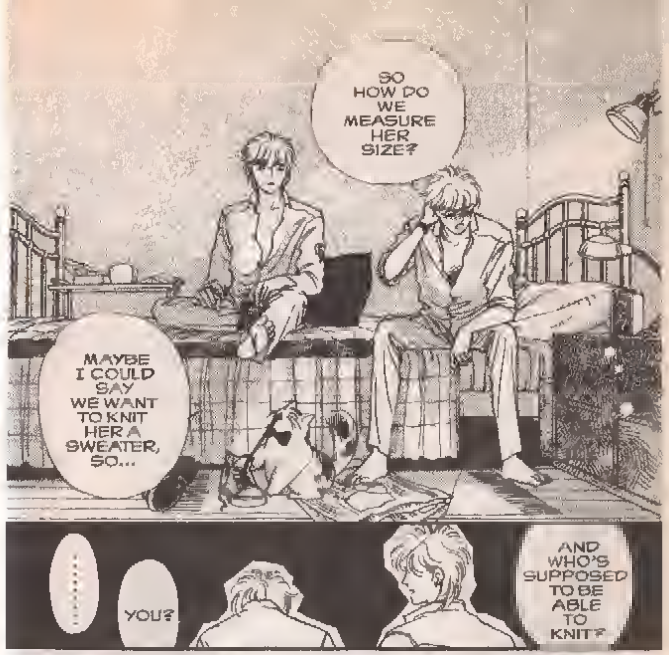
I SHOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN RUTH INVOLVED IN THIS.
IT'S NOT FAIR TO HER.
I ENDED UP DATING THAT GIRL WHO PICKED ON ANISE.
BUT SHE WAS SO SINCERE, IT WAS CUTE.
IT PUTS HER IN A BAD POSITION.
YEAH, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
AND SHE'S TRYING HER BEST.
YEAH.
I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN CARE OF IT MYSELF, RIGHT FROM THE START.
CLANK

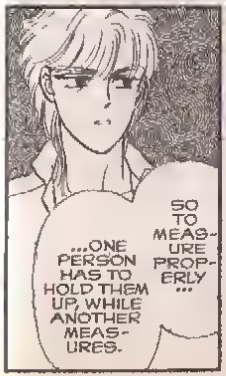

HERE WE ARE AT CIPHER VOLUME 3 AND IT'S ALREADY SUMMER NOW. I'M FEELING PRETTY GOOD, BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS GOING ON AROUND ME. THE COMPLETE EDITION OF "ALIEN ROAD" AND THE CIPHER CARD SET ARE COMING OUT. SUMITOMO LIFE WILL BE USING "CIPHER" IN THEIR COMMERCIALS. SO I'M BUSIER THAN USUAL.
AIE
IN OTHER NEWS, WHAM! (MY FAVORITE BAND) BROKE UP AND I'M SAD TO HEAR THAT JOEY HAS LEFT THE THOMPSON TWINS. A-HA IS THE ONLY BAND COMING TO JAPAN IN JULY. BOO-HOO. (RIGHT NOW IT'S MAY 1986). THIS YEAR, THE THOMPSON TWINS DID SHOWS IN TOKYO AND OSAKA. ON THEIR LAST DAY, I HAD TICKETS IN THE FRONT ROW! NOW, UNFORTUNATELY, I HAD TO MISS THE LAST TWO SONGS BECAUSE OF WORK. I REALLY WANT TO GO TO LONDON!
LET'S TRY SOME CONCRETE ACTION.
I NEED TO BE MORE DIRECT.
the world largest store
macy's
BUT THEN AGAIN...
EAST SIDE STORY

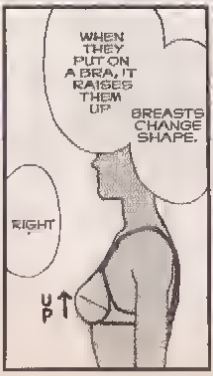

I-- UH--I NEED SOME-THING FOR MY SISTER ...
A B-B-BRAS-SIERE.
May I help you?
SHOCK
CASHIER
CASH ONLY
FOR YOUR SISTER. I SEE.
HMM
I FEEL LIKE A PERVERT.
UH...
DO YOU KNOW HER SIZE?

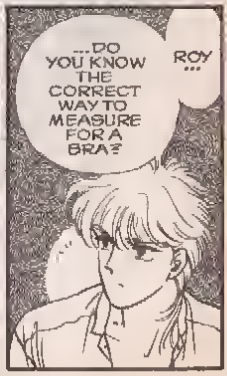

Huh?
WHEN SHE RUBBED UP AGAINST MY BACK IT WAS LIKE...
UH
OOH ... YEAH ...
HER SIZE.
IF YOU DON'T GET THE RIGHT SIZE ...

SMILE
"...BIG BROTHER."
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD CONFIRM THE SIZE, AND THEN COME BACK..
SO YOU DON'T KNOW THE EXACT SIZE.
OKAY.
NO! I MEAN...
I HAVEN'T TOUCHED...
IT WAS A COMPLETE DISASTER.


SO HOW DO WE MEASURE HER SIZE?
MAYBE I COULD SAY WE WANT TO KNIT HER A SWEATER, SO...
.....
YOU?
AND WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO KNIT?

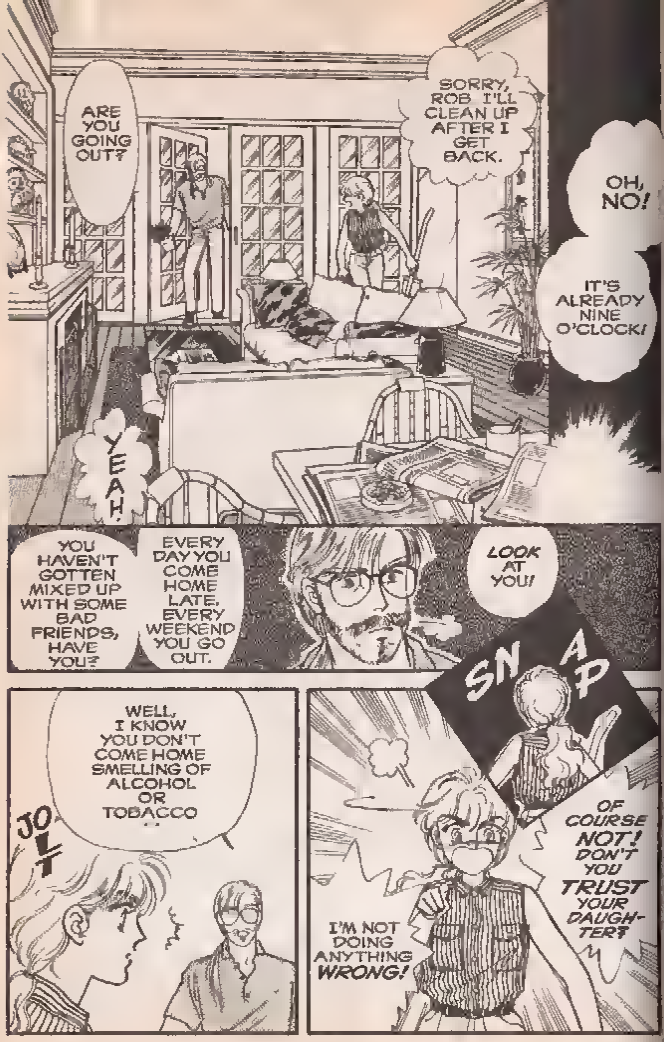

SO TO MEASURE PROPERLY ...
...ONE PERSON HAS TO HOLD THEM UP, WHILE ANOTHER MEASURES.

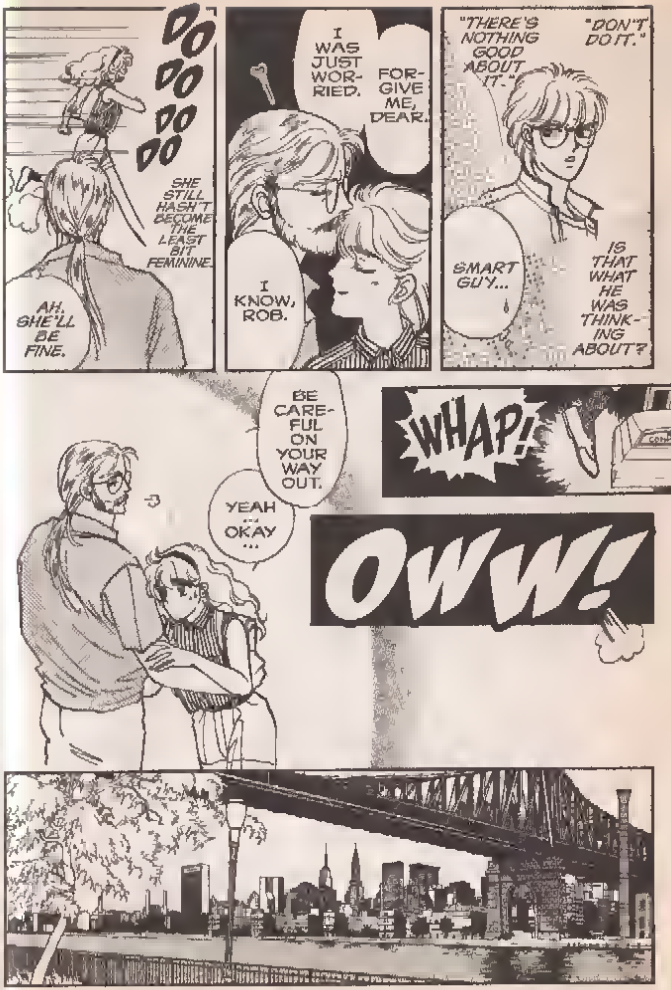

WHEN THEY PUT ON A BRA, IT RAISES THEM UP.
BREASTS CHANGE SHAPE.
RIGHT
UP


ROY ...
...DO YOU KNOW THE CORRECT WAY TO MEASURE FOR A BRA?

I CAN'T...
I CAN'T POSSIBLY...
DIDN'T THINK SO...
HOLD THEM UP...
.....
YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS, JAKE.
HAVE YOU EVER HELD THEM UP BEFORE?
NO, MINE AREN'T THAT BIG.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
IT WAS JUST A JOKE.

EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE GOT ALL KINDS OF EXPERI-ENCE ...
... ANISE HAS YOU TWISTED AROUND HER FINGER.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, JAKE? WHEN ANISE IS AROUND, YOU'RE A NERVOUS WRECK.
.....
IF YOU HAD YOUR WAY ...
... YOU'D MAKE HER WEAR A SPACE SUIT ALL SUMMER.


ARE YOU GOING OUT?
SORRY, ROB I'LL CLEAN UP AFTER I GET BACK.
OH, NO!
IT'S ALREADY NINE O'CLOCK!
YEAH.
YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN MIXED UP WITH SOME BAD FRIENDS, HAVE YOU?
EVERY DAY YOU COME HOME LATE. EVERY WEEKEND YOU GO OUT.
LOOK AT YOU!
SNAP
WELL, I KNOW YOU DON'T COME HOME SMELLING OF ALCOHOL OR TOBACCO . . .
JOLT
OF COURSE NOT! DON'T YOU TRUST YOUR DAUGHTER?
I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING WRONG!

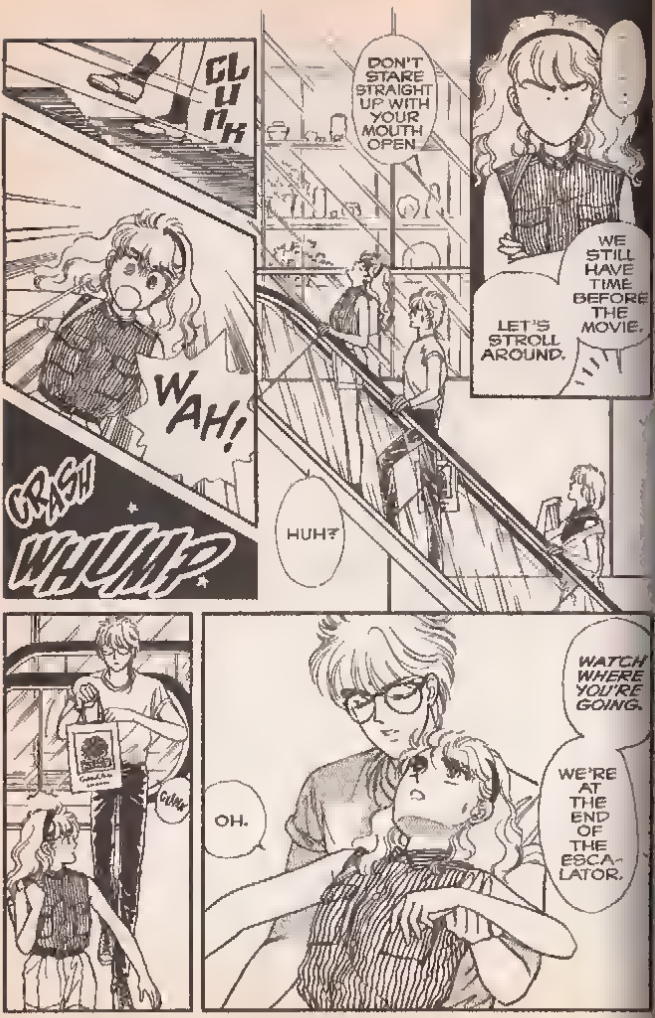

DO DO DO DO
SHE STILL HASN'T BECOME THE LEAST BIT FEMININE.
AH, SHE'LL BE FINE.
I WAS JUST WORRIED.
FORGIVE ME, DEAR.
I KNOW, ROB.
"THERE'S NOTHING GOOD ABOUT IT."
"DON'T DO IT."
SMART GUY...
IS THAT WHAT HE WAS THINKING ABOUT?
WHAP!
BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY OUT.
YEAH ... OKAY ...
OWW!

GOOD MORNING, GUYS!
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY OUTSIDE!
HUH?
CLACK
I TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID.
SHE LOOKS BETTER IN SHORTS THAN IN A SPACE SUIT.
AND A SPORTS SHIRT UNDERNEATH?
WELL, I HAD TO!
A THICK DENIM SHIRT, WITH POCKETS?
I REALLY WANT TO GO TO THE MOVIES TODAY.
AH, NOTHING.
LOOKS LIKE YOU REALLY PUT SOME THOUGHT INTO IT TODAY.
UH...
AND HOW ABOUT MY MORNING GREETING?

WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO KISS ME?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SIVA?
.....
EH?
?
D-DON'T GET SO CLOSE.
TODAY, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU HERE.
?!
.....
IT'S OKAY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
UH...
.....

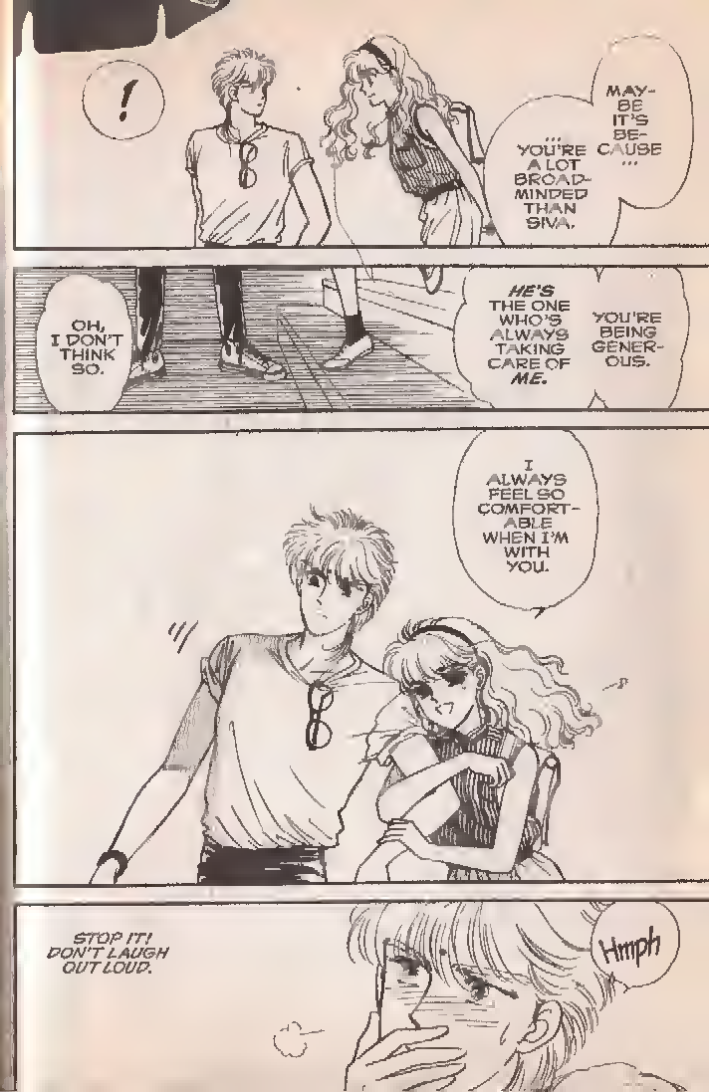
SMOOCH
GRAB
LET'S GO!
.....
?-?-?-
HEY, CIPHER. CAN WE TAKE A SHORT DETOUR?
I NEED TO BUY A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR A FRIEND.
OKAY.
WHERE?

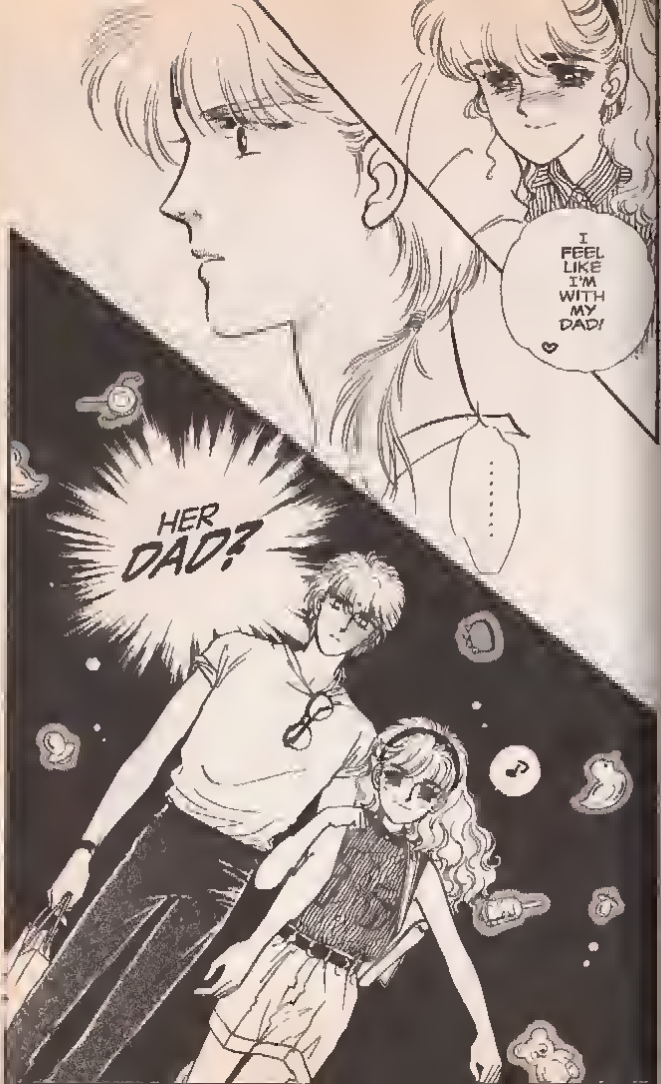
NOW WHERE IS THE TOILET-RIES SHOP?
SEE ONE ANY-WHERE?
NYC
YEAH, THAT'S IT.
IT LOOKS LIKE THE PLACE.
IS THAT IT?
LONDON
THEN I'LL CARRY IT FOR YOU.
GRIN
ISN'T THAT STUFF HEAVY?
NO PROB!
IT'S JUST A SOAP DISH AND A CUP.
THANK YOU. PLEASE COME AGAIN.

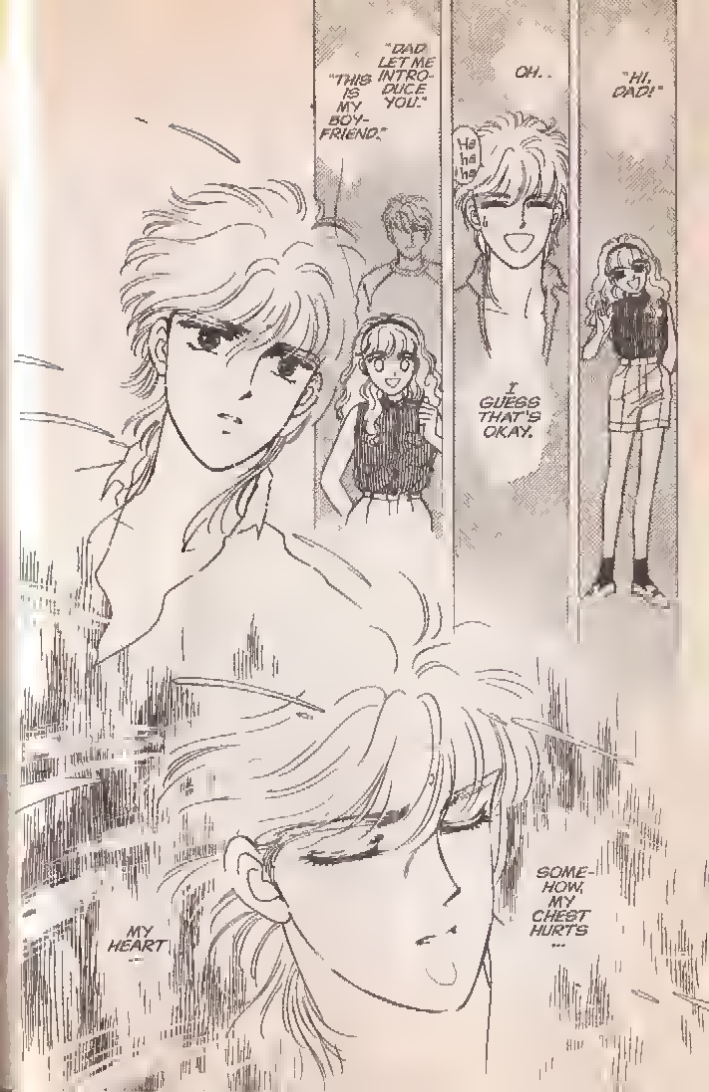

CLUNK
WAH!
CRASH
WHUMP
DON'T STARE STRAIGHT UP WITH YOUR MOUTH OPEN
HUH?
LET'S STROLL AROUND.
WE STILL HAVE TIME BEFORE THE MOVIE.
OH.
WE'RE AT THE END OF THE ESCA-LATOR.
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING.

I'M SORRY.
AND THANKS.
WHAT?
I DIDN'T BREAK IT, DID I?
OH, NO!
NO, IT'S OKAY.
IT LOOKS FINE.
I MEAN ... BEFORE ...
I-I JUST ...
WHAT ARE YOU APOLOGIZING FOR NOW?
IT'S OKAY.
LET'S GO.

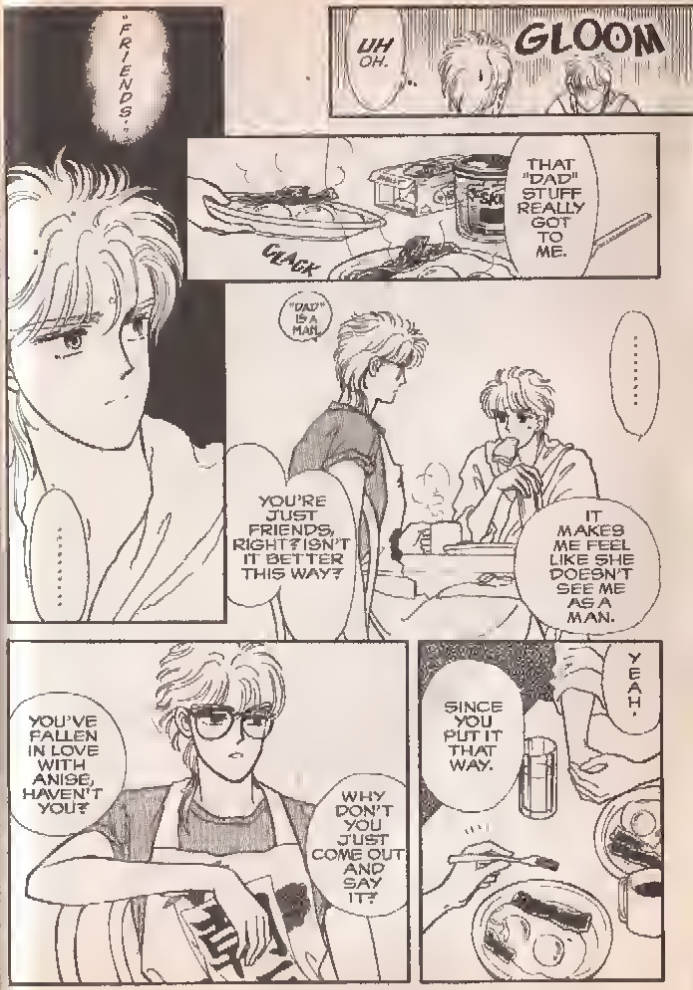
WHEN-EVER I THINK I'VE DONE SOME-THING WRONG ...
... YOU ALWAYS GIVE ME A SMILE, AND MAKE IT ALL RIGHT.
IT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER.
YOU'RE ALWAYS STRAIGHT WITH YOUR EMOTIONS, AND IT MAKES PEOPLE FEEL AT EASE.
YOU PROBABLY HAVE A LOT OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT YOUR JOB, BUT YOU NEVER EXPRESS THEM.
OF COURSE I DON'T.
.....

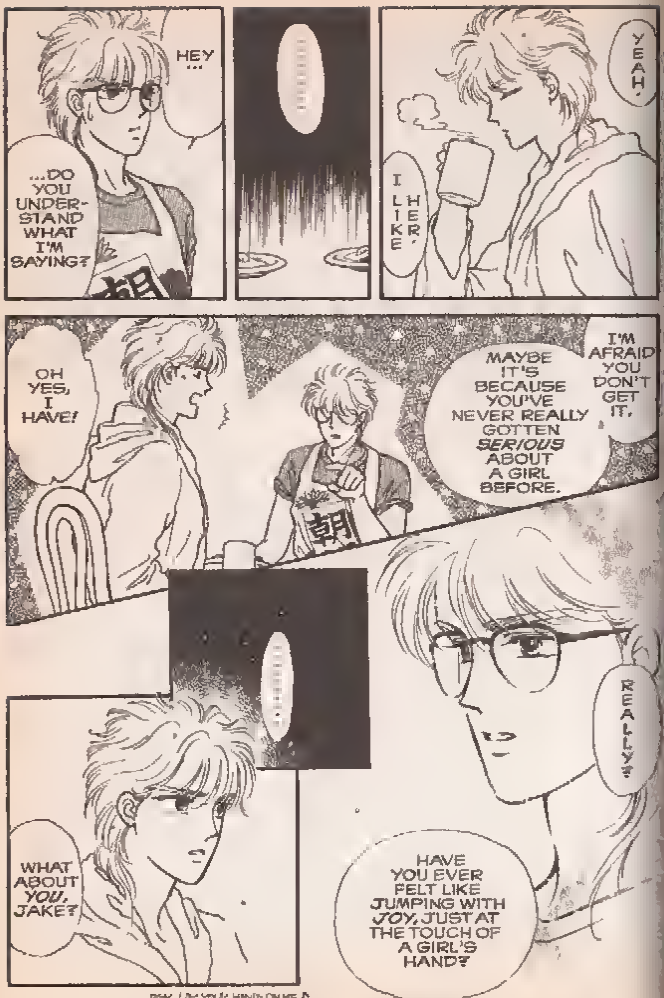

!
MAY-BE IT'S BE-CAUSE ...
...YOU'RE A LOT BROAD-MINDED THAN SIVA.
OH, I DON'T THINK SO.
HE'S THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS TAKING CARE OF ME.
YOU'RE BEING GENER-OUS.
I ALWAYS FEEL SO COMFORT-ABLE WHEN I'M WITH YOU.
STOP IT! DON'T LAUGH OUT LOUD.
Hmph


I FEEL LIKE I'M WITH MY DAD!
.....
HER DAD?

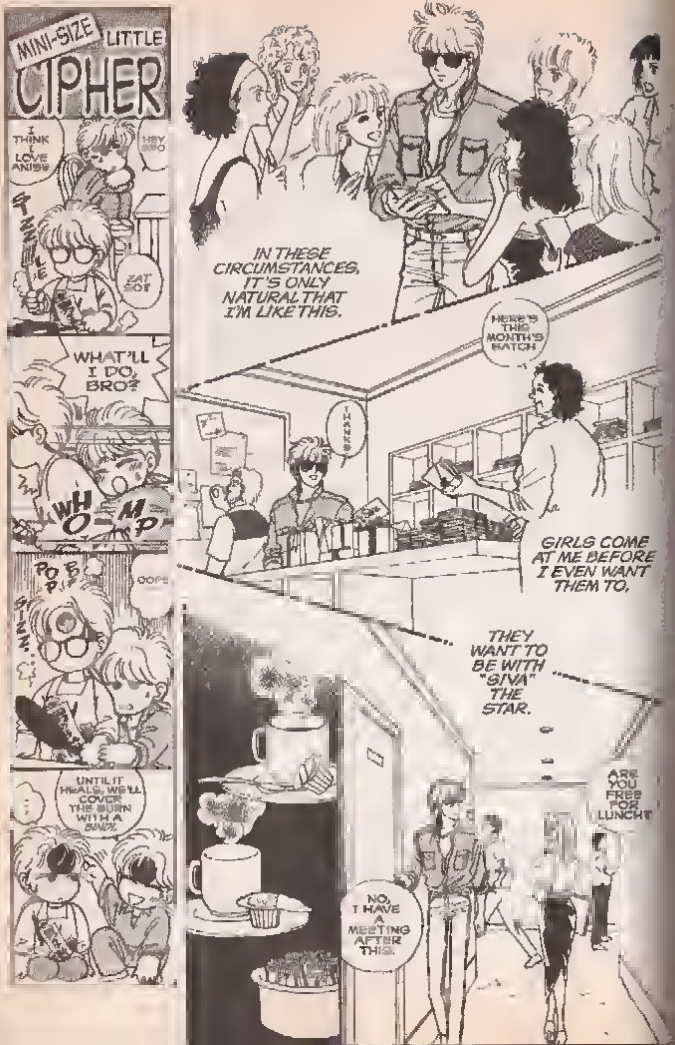

"HI, DAD!"
OH..
He he he
I GUESS THAT'S OKAY.
"DAD LET ME INTRO-DUCE YOU."
"THIS IS MY BOY-FRIEND."
SOME-HOW, MY CHEST HURTS ...
MY HEART ...

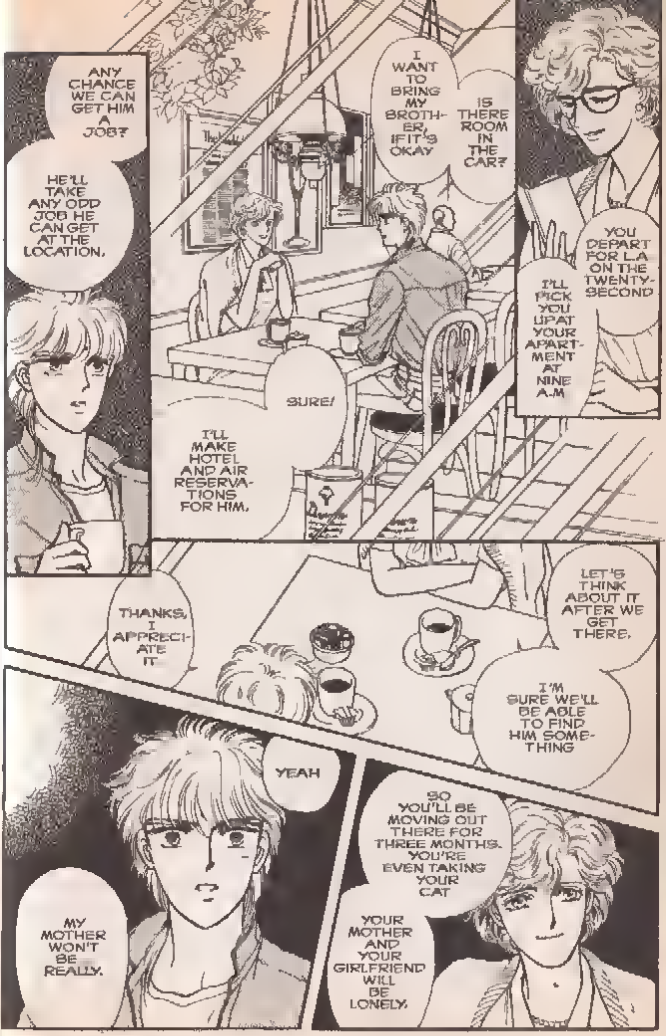
IT'S MORNING.
WAKE UP.
PLOP
. . . . . .
CAN'T YOU FIND A NICER WAY OF WAKING ME?
NO, I CAN'T.
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS BRING THE FRYING PAN?
KITCHEN-WARE IS MY FRIEND.
AH!
I WAS HAVING A DREAM ABOUT ANISE.
LOOKS LIKE IT WAS A NIGHT-MARE.


"FRIENDS."
.....
UH OH.
GLOOM
CLACK
THAT "DAD" STUFF REALLY GOT TO ME.
"DAD" IS A MAN.
YOU'RE JUST FRIENDS, RIGHT? ISN'T IT BETTER THIS WAY?
.....
IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE SHE DOESN'T SEE ME AS A MAN.
YOU'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ANISE, HAVEN'T YOU?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME OUT AND SAY IT?
SINCE YOU PUT IT THAT WAY.
YEAH.

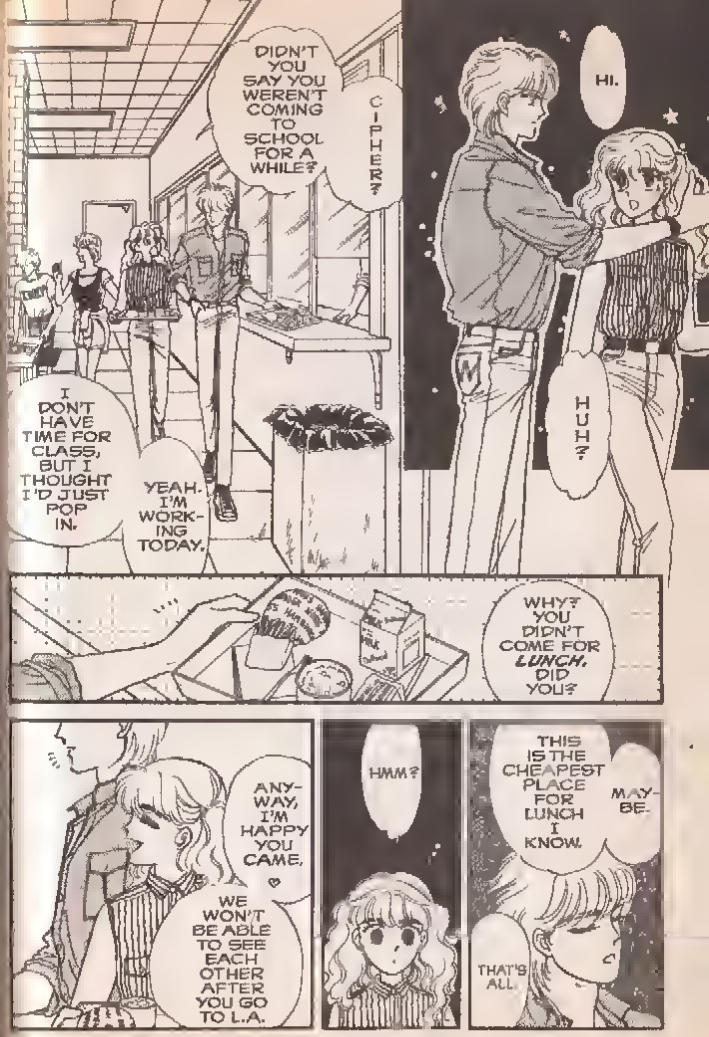

HEY ...
...DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING?
YEAH.
I LIKE HER.
I'M AFRAID YOU DON'T GET IT.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE NEVER REALLY GOTTEN *SERIOUS* ABOUT A GIRL BEFORE.
OH YES, I HAVE!
REALLY?
HAVE YOU EVER FELT LIKE JUMPING WITH *JOY*, JUST AT THE TOUCH OF A GIRL'S HAND?
WHAT ABOUT *YOU*, JAKE?

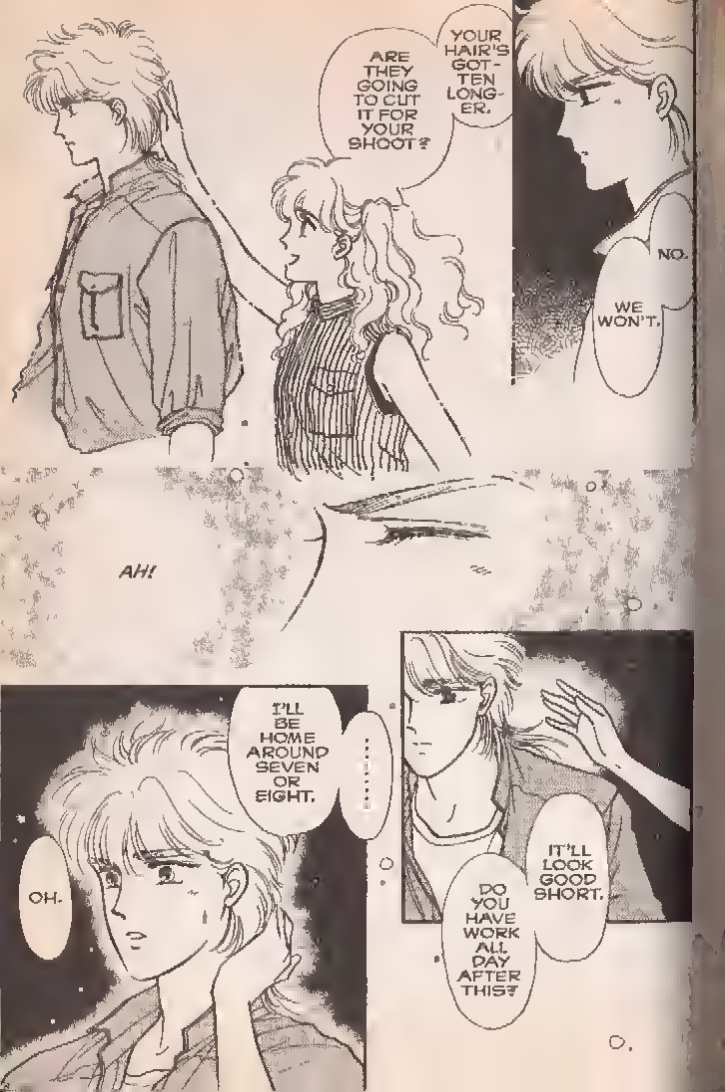
RARE?
RARE?
RARE?
THAT'S PRETTY RARE FOR A 17 YEAR OLD.
YOU'RE KINDA DIM.
IF YOU COUNTER WITH THAT, YOU DEFINITELY NEVER FELT IT.
Gulp!
WORK HARD.
HAVE A NICE DAY, KID.
THERE HE IS! IT'S SIVA!

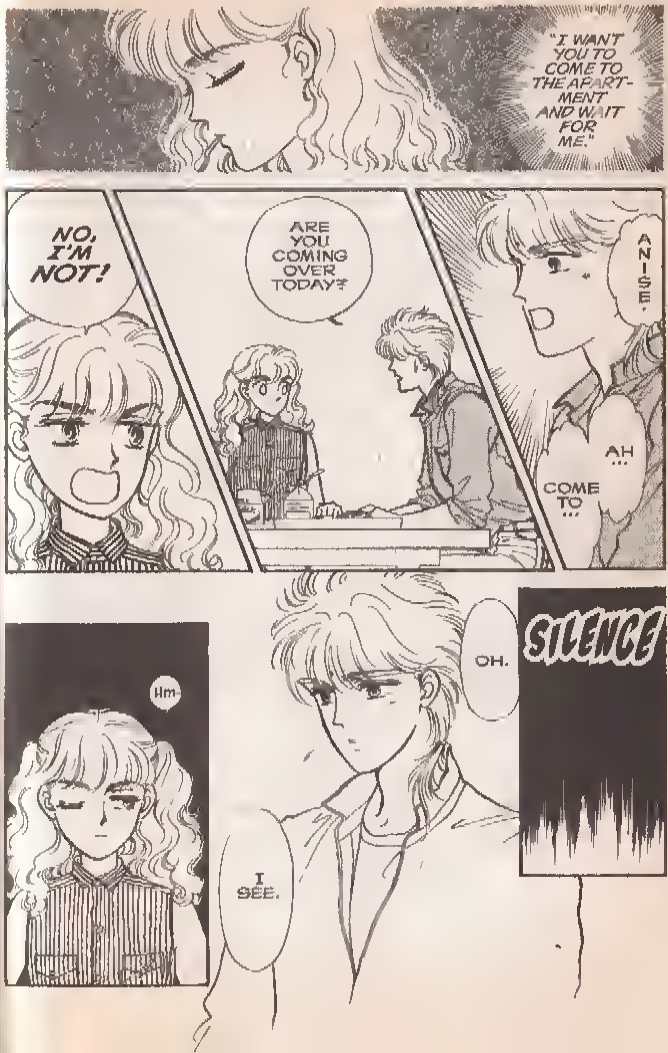

MINI-SIZE LITTLE CIPHER
I THINK I LOVE ANISE
HEY BRO
EAT SOT
WHAT'LL I DO, BRO?
WH O-M P
OOPS
UNTIL IT HEALS, WE'LL COVER THE BURN WITH A BINDA
IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT I'M LIKE THIS.
HERE'S THIS MONTH'S BATCH
GIRLS COME AT ME BEFORE I EVEN WANT THEM TO.
THEY WANT TO BE WITH "SIVA" THE STAR.
ARE YOU FREE FOR LUNCH?
NO, I HAVE A MEETING AFTER THIS.

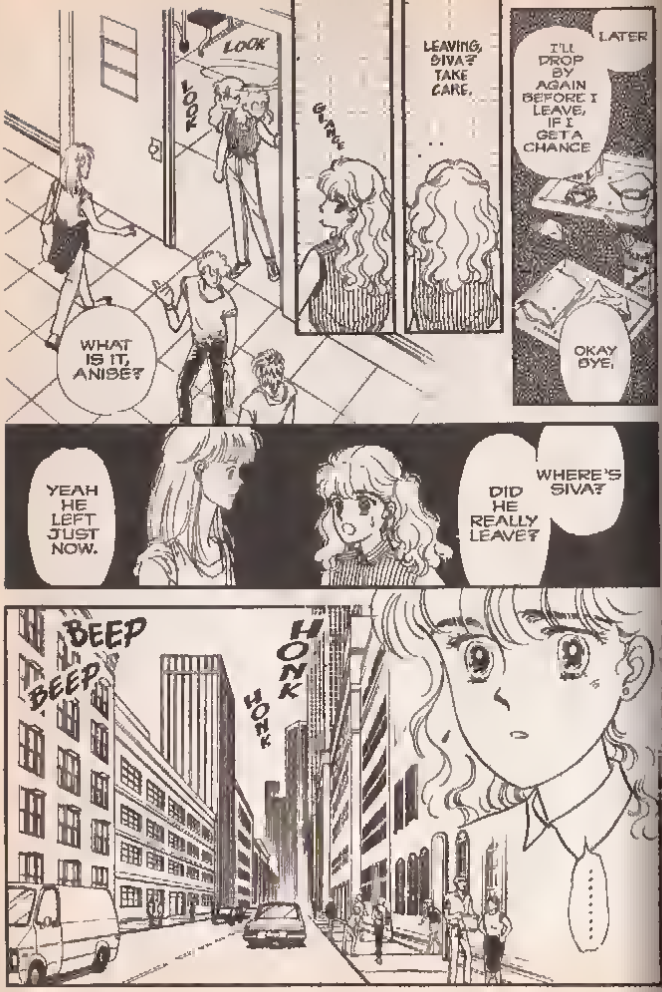

ANY CHANCE WE CAN GET HIM A JOB?
HE'LL TAKE ANY ODD JOB HE CAN GET AT THE LOCATION.
I WANT TO BRING MY BROTHER, IF IT'S OKAY
IS THERE ROOM IN THE CAR?
SURE!
I'LL MAKE HOTEL AND AIR RESERVATIONS FOR HIM.
YOU DEPART FOR L.A. ON THE TWENTY-SECOND
I'LL PICK YOU UP AT YOUR APARTMENT AT NINE A.M.
THANKS, I APPRECIATE IT.
LET'S THINK ABOUT IT AFTER WE GET THERE.
I'M SURE WE'LL BE ABLE TO FIND HIM SOMETHING
YEAH
MY MOTHER WON'T BE REALLY.
SO YOU'LL BE MOVING OUT THERE FOR THREE MONTHS. YOU'RE EVEN TAKING YOUR CAT
YOUR MOTHER AND YOUR GIRLFRIEND WILL BE LONELY.

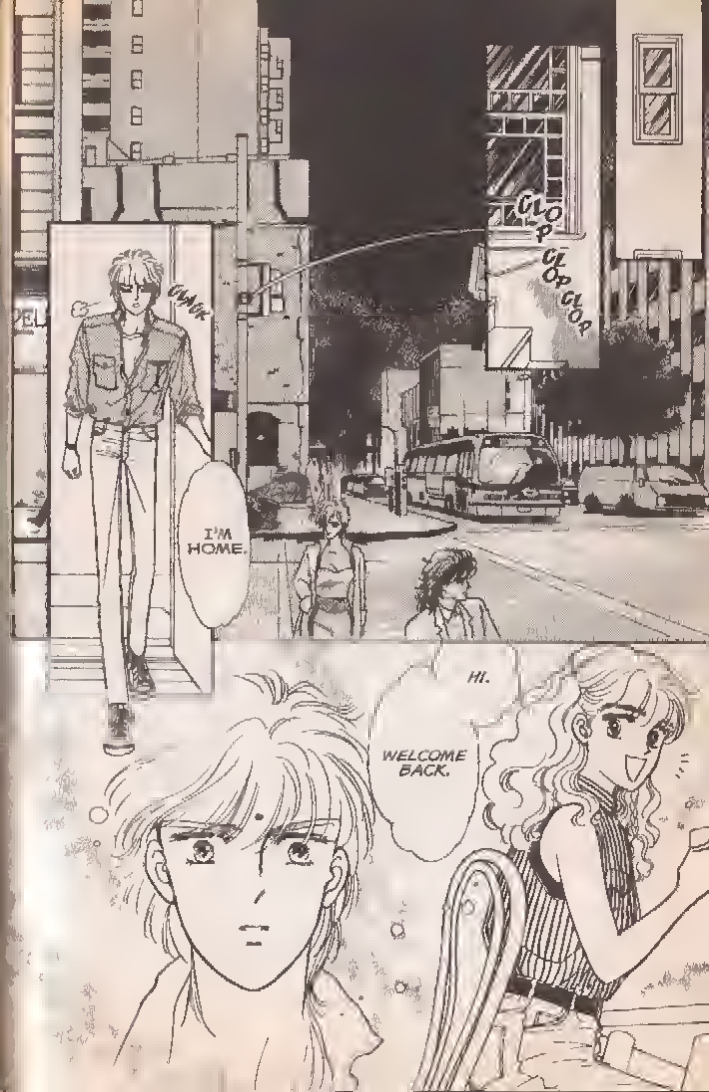
.....
THREE MONTHS. TEN DAYS FROM NOW, I WON'T BE ABLE TO MEET HER.
TOO BAD L.A. AND NEW YORK ARE SO FAR APART.
RINNNGGGG
Hi!
WAH!

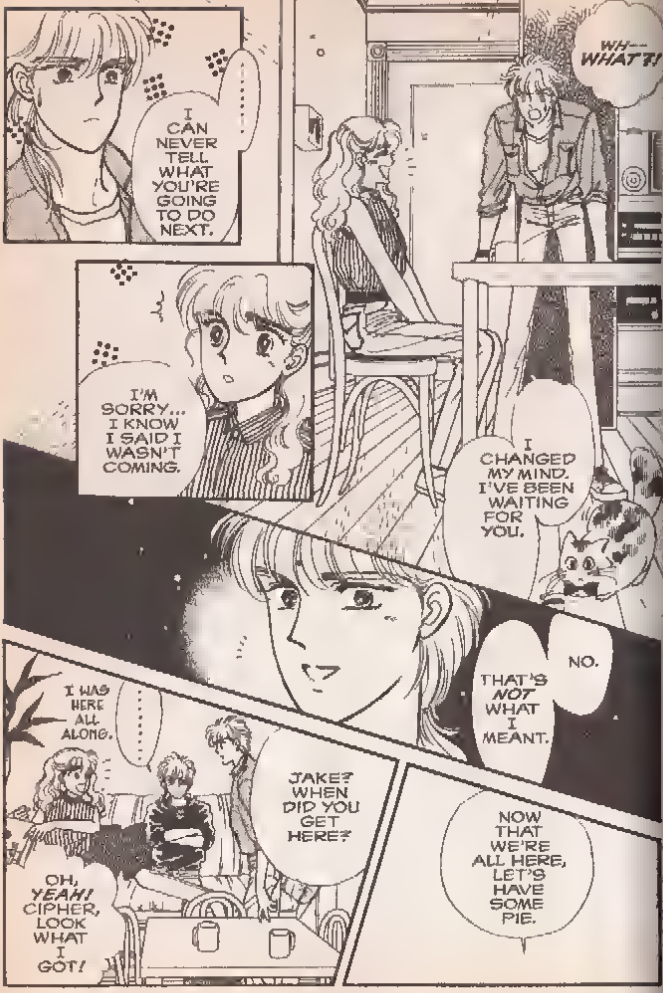

HI.
HUH?
CIPHER?
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WEREN'T COMING TO SCHOOL FOR A WHILE?
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR CLASS, BUT I THOUGHT I'D JUST POP IN.
YEAH. I'M WORK-ING TODAY.
WHY? YOU DIDN'T COME FOR LUNCH. DID YOU?
ANY-WAY, I'M HAPPY YOU CAME.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER AFTER YOU GO TO L.A.
HMM?
THIS IS THE CHEAPEST PLACE FOR LUNCH I KNOW.
MAY-BE.
THAT'S ALL.

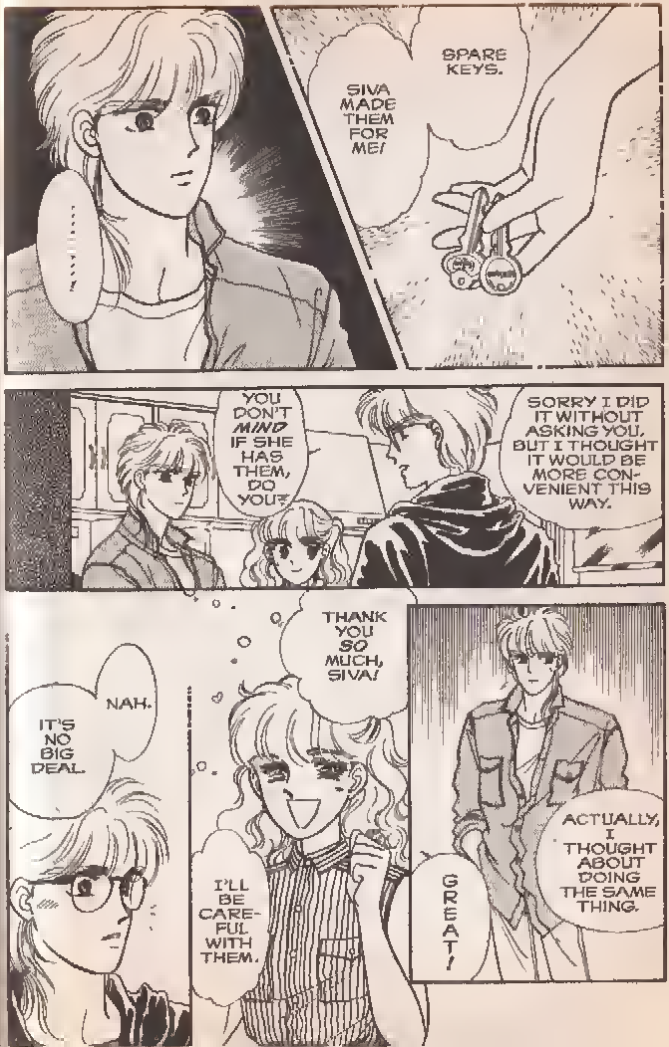

YOUR HAIR'S GOT-TEN LONG-ER.
ARE THEY GOING TO CUT IT FOR YOUR SHOOT?
NO.
WE WON'T.
AH!
I'LL BE HOME AROUND SEVEN OR EIGHT.
OH.
IT'LL LOOK GOOD SHORT.
DO YOU HAVE WORK ALL DAY AFTER THIS?


"I WANT YOU TO COME TO THE APARTMENT AND WAIT FOR ME."
NO, I'M NOT!
ARE YOU COMING OVER TODAY?
ANISE.
AH...
COME TO...
Hm.
OH.
SILENCE
I SEE.


LOOK
LOOK
WHAT IS IT, ANISE?
GIRL
LEAVING, SIVA? TAKE CARE.
LATER
I'LL DROP BY AGAIN BEFORE I LEAVE, IF I GET A CHANCE
OKAY BYE.
YEAH HE LEFT JUST NOW.
DID HE REALLY LEAVE?
WHERE'S SIVA?
BEEP
BEEP
HONK
HONK


CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
I'M HOME.
HI.
WELCOME BACK.

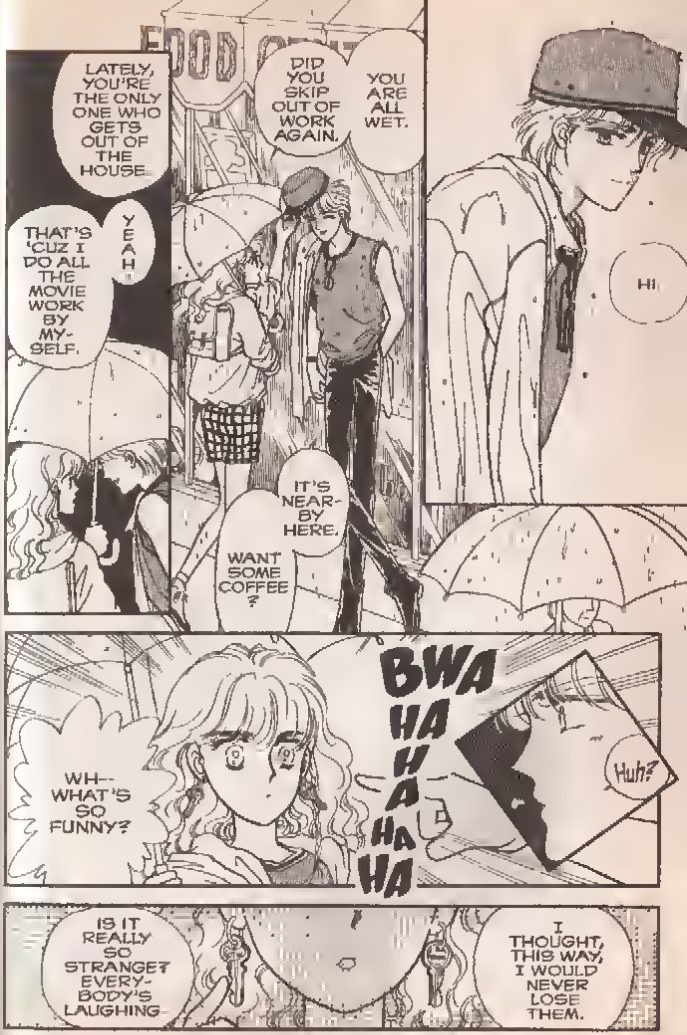

I CAN NEVER TELL WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO NEXT.
WH— WHAT?!
I'M SORRY... I KNOW I SAID I WASN'T COMING.
I CHANGED MY MIND. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
NO. THAT'S *NOT* WHAT I MEANT.
I WAS HERE ALL ALONG.
JAKE? WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?
NOW THAT WE'RE ALL HERE, LET'S HAVE SOME PIE.
OH, *YEAH!* CIPHER, LOOK WHAT I GOT!

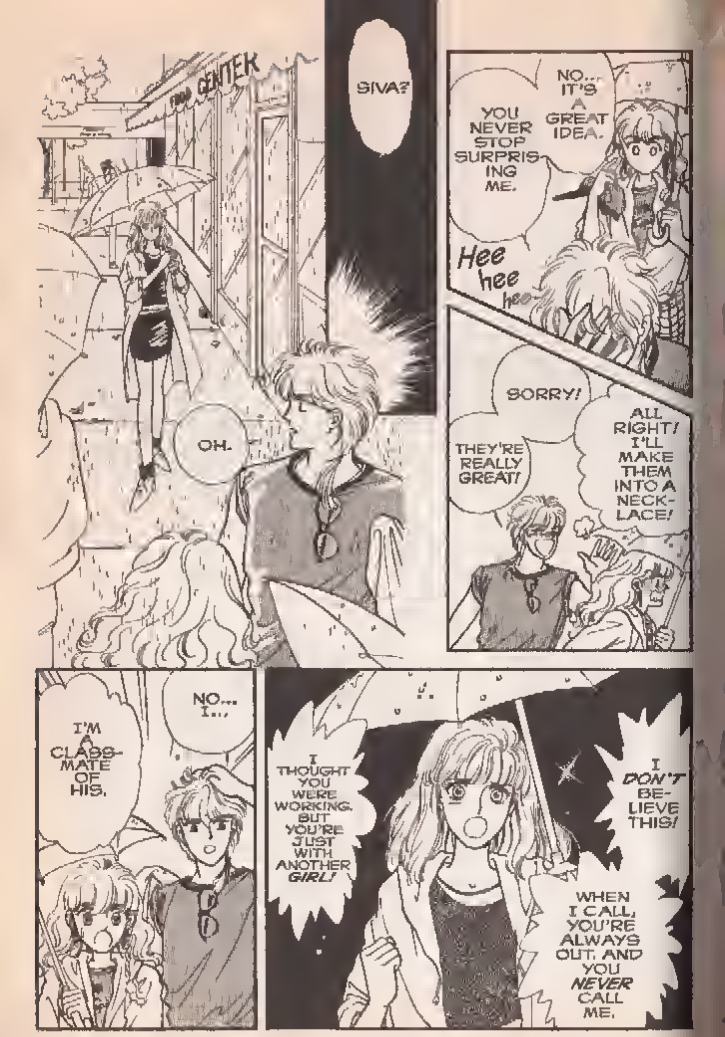

.....!
SPARE KEYS.
SIVA MADE THEM FOR ME!
YOU DON'T MIND IF SHE HAS THEM, DO YOU?
SORRY I DID IT WITHOUT ASKING YOU, BUT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE CONVENIENT THIS WAY.
THANK YOU SO MUCH, SIVA!
NAH. IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
I'LL BE CAREFUL WITH THEM.
GREAT!
ACTUALLY, I THOUGHT ABOUT DOING THE SAME THING.

HERE COMES THE KISS!
GRAB
.....
YOU'RE THINKING OF SOMETHING DIRTY, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE BLUSHING.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
?!
PERVERT!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! LET HIM GO!
CIPHER!

NO!
PERVERT.
BLUSH
NO, YOU'LL JUST GET FAT.
CAN I HAVE A LITTLE MORE?
SHUMP!
OKAY, OKAY! I PROMISE! NOW GET OFF.
JAKE, I'M SCARED! PROMISE ME YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY BELOVED BROTHER!
I'M SCARED, JAKE.

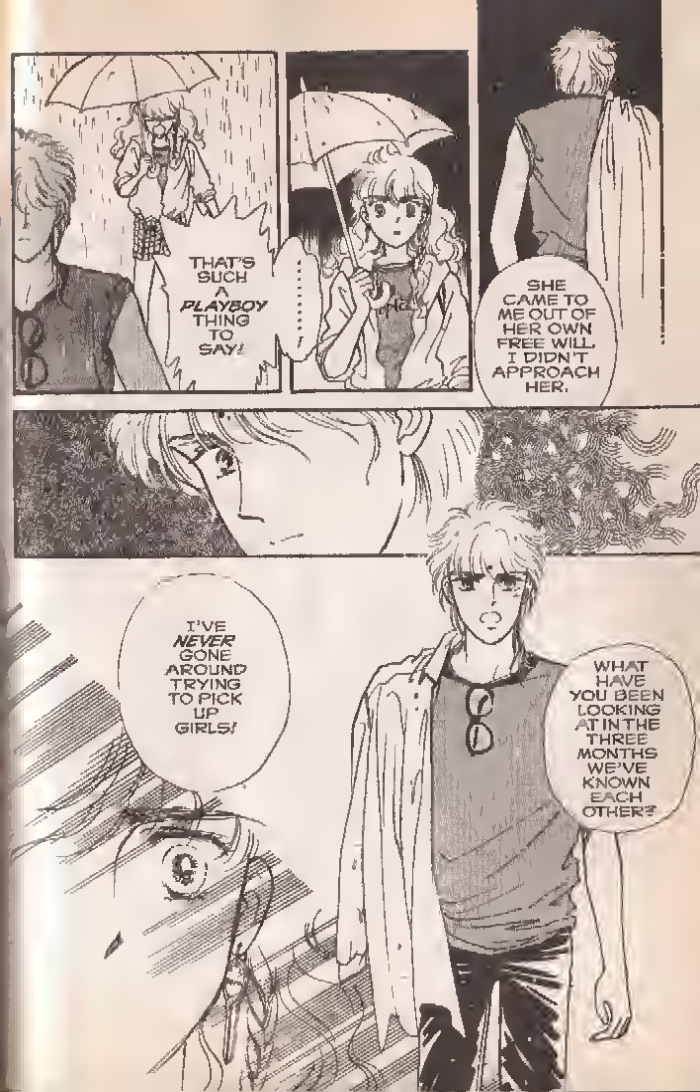
HEY!

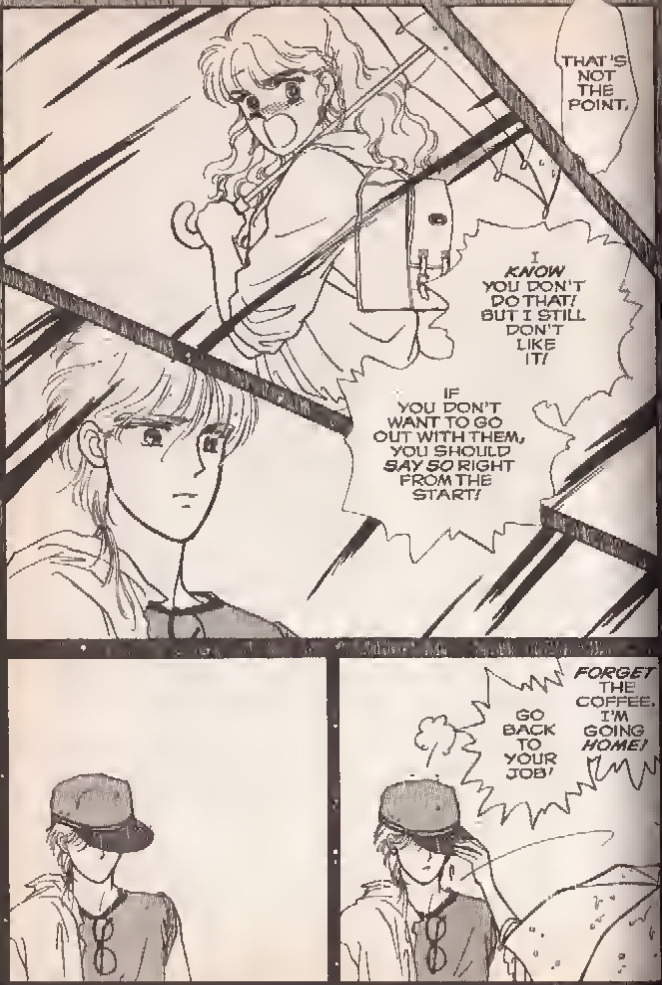

LATELY, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS OUT OF THE HOUSE.
DID YOU SKIP OUT OF WORK AGAIN.
YOU ARE ALL WET.
HI
YEAH
THAT'S 'CUZ I DO ALL THE MOVIE WORK BY MY-SELF.
IT'S NEAR-BY HERE.
WANT SOME COFFEE?
BWA HA HA HA HA
Huh?
WH-- WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
IS IT REALLY SO STRANGE? EVERY-BODY'S LAUGHING
I THOUGHT, THIS WAY, I WOULD NEVER LOSE THEM.


SIVA?
CENTER
OH.
NO... IT'S A GREAT IDEA.
YOU NEVER STOP SURPRISING ME.
Hee hee hee
SORRY!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL MAKE THEM INTO A NECKLACE!
THEY'RE REALLY GREAT!
NO... I...
I'M A CLASSMATE OF HIS.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE WORKING. BUT YOU'RE JUST WITH ANOTHER GIRL!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
WHEN I CALL, YOU'RE ALWAYS OUT. AND YOU NEVER CALL ME.

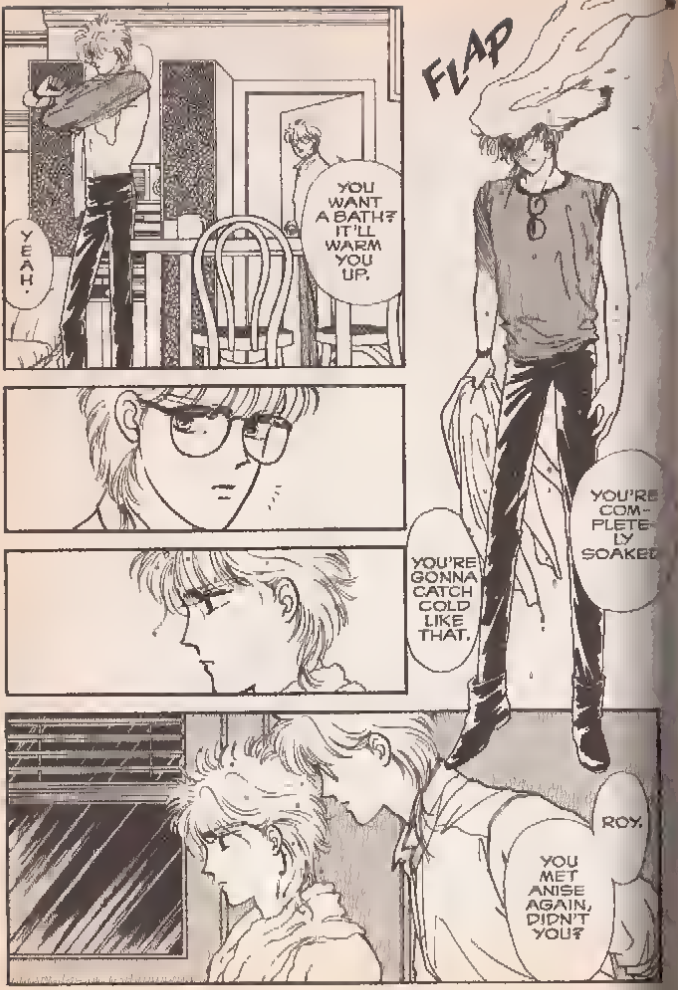
I'M JUST A FRIEND!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS!
I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
KEEP OUT OF THIS, ANISE. YOU'LL JUST MAKE IT WORSE.
BUT I HAVE TO SAY IT.
I *SAID*, KEEP OUT OF IT.
WHAT'S *THAT* SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
OKAY, THEN.
BYE.

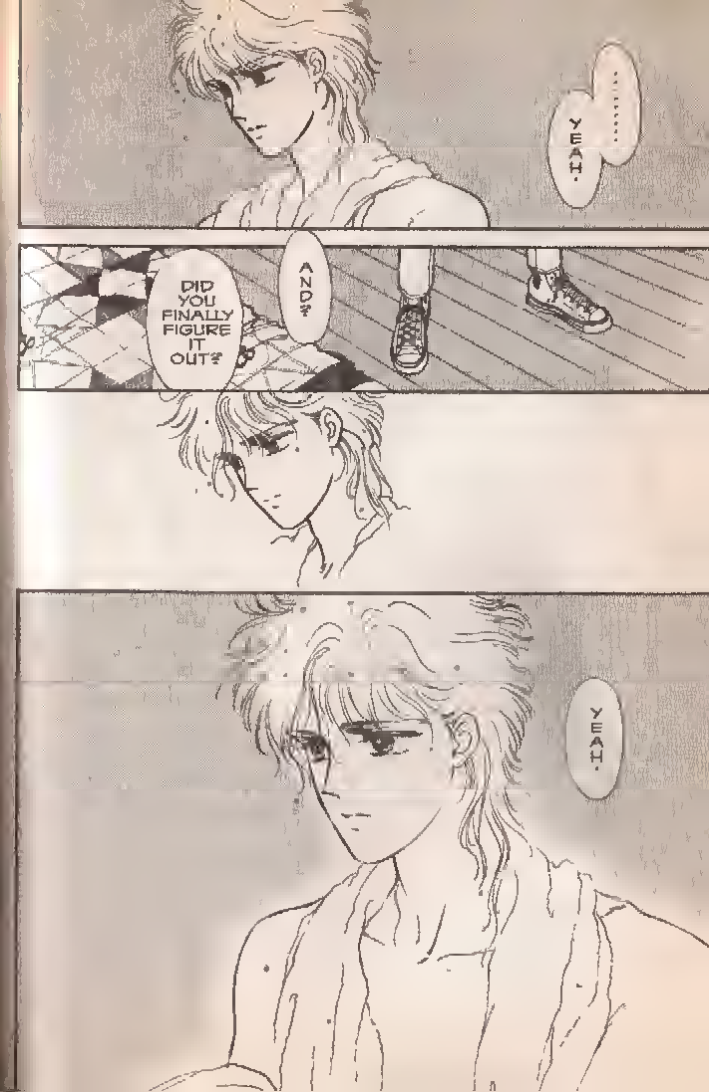
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU COULD BE SO CRUEL!
CAN'T YOU AT LEAST BE CIVIL?
SLAP!
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SAY SOME-THING!
I DON'T FEEL LIKE TALKING!


THAT'S SUCH A PLAYBOY THING TO SAY!
SHE CAME TO ME OUT OF HER OWN FREE WILL. I DIDN'T APPROACH HER.
I'VE NEVER GONE AROUND TRYING TO PICK UP GIRLS!
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING AT IN THE THREE MONTHS WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER?

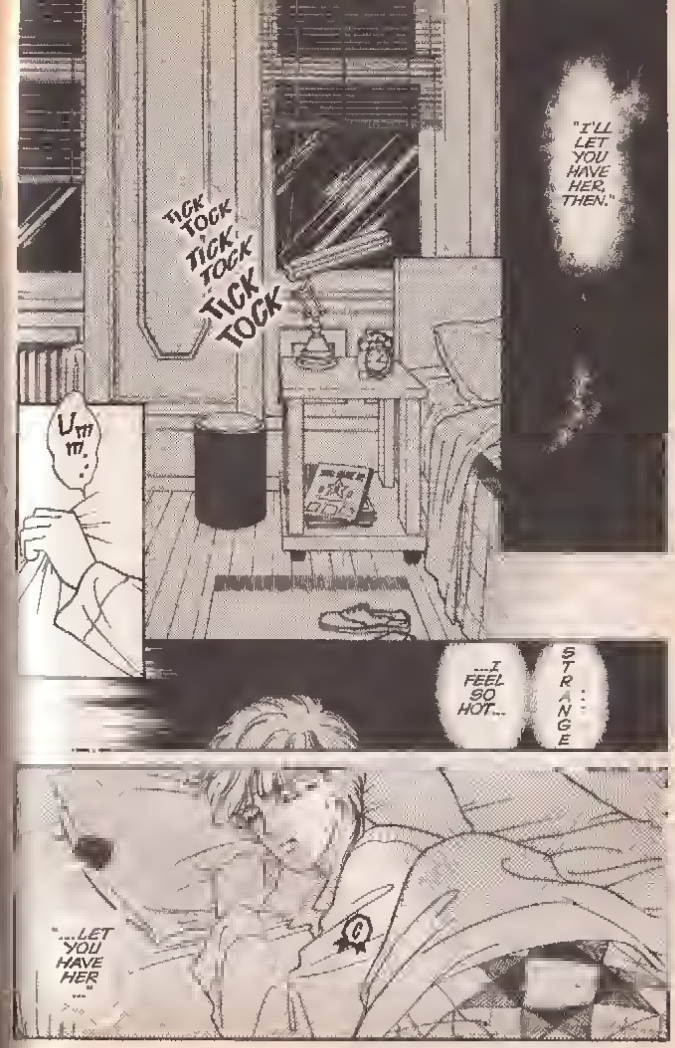

THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
I *KNOW* YOU DON'T DO THAT! BUT I STILL DON'T LIKE IT!
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GO OUT WITH THEM, YOU SHOULD *SAY SO* RIGHT FROM THE START!
FORGET THE COFFEE. I'M GOING *HOME!*
GO BACK TO YOUR JOB!

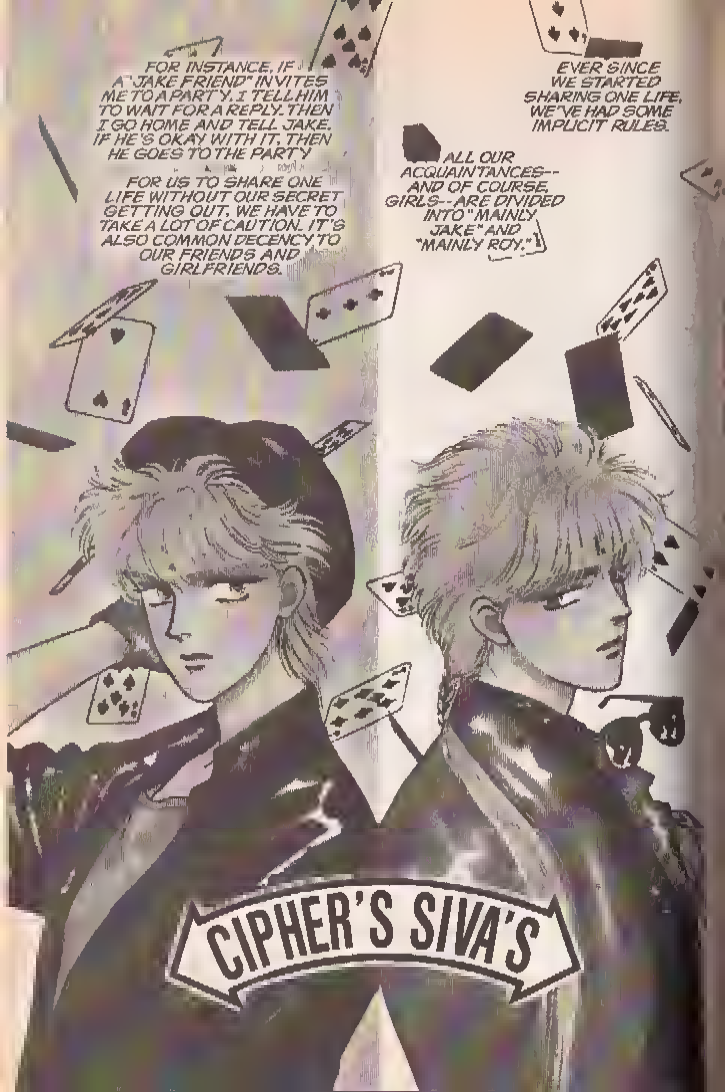
MEOW


YEAH.
YOU WANT A BATH? IT'LL WARM YOU UP.
FLAP
YOU'RE COMPLETELY SOAKED.
YOU'RE GONNA CATCH COLD LIKE THAT.
ROY.
YOU MET ANISE AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?

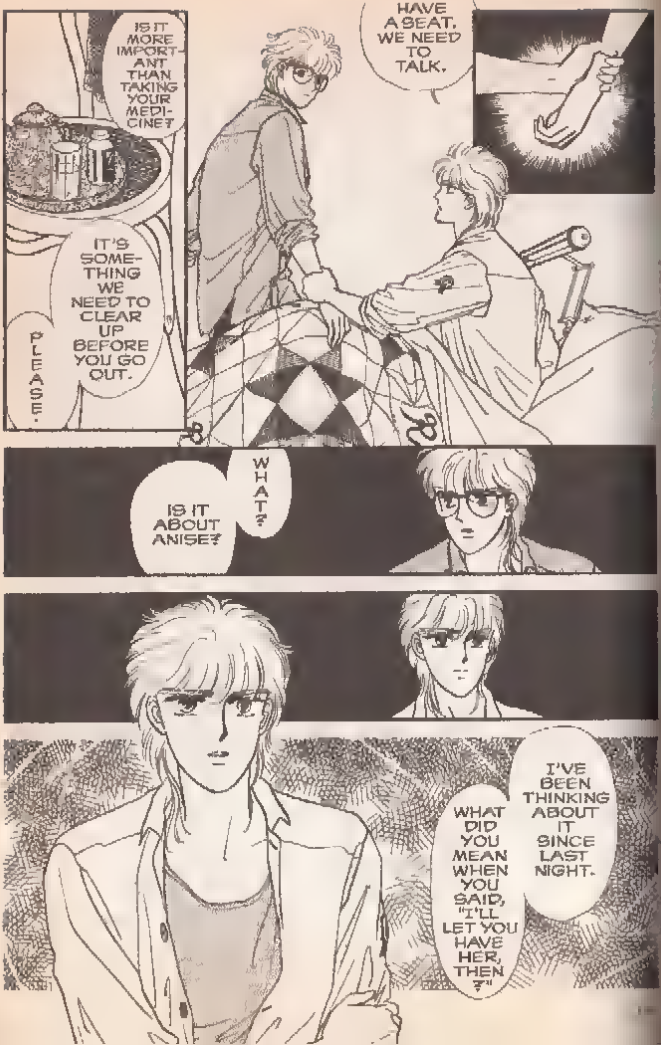

YEAH.
AND?
DID YOU FINALLY FIGURE IT OUT?
YEAH.

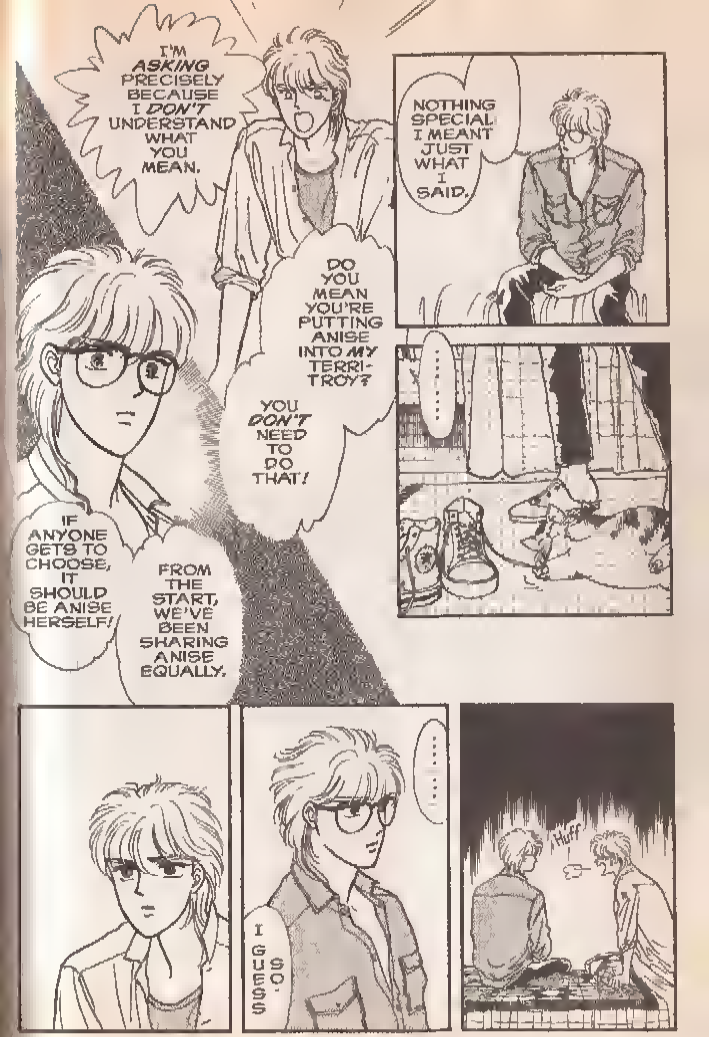
JAKE?
I'LL LET YOU HAVE HER, THEN.
OKAY.
Hmm

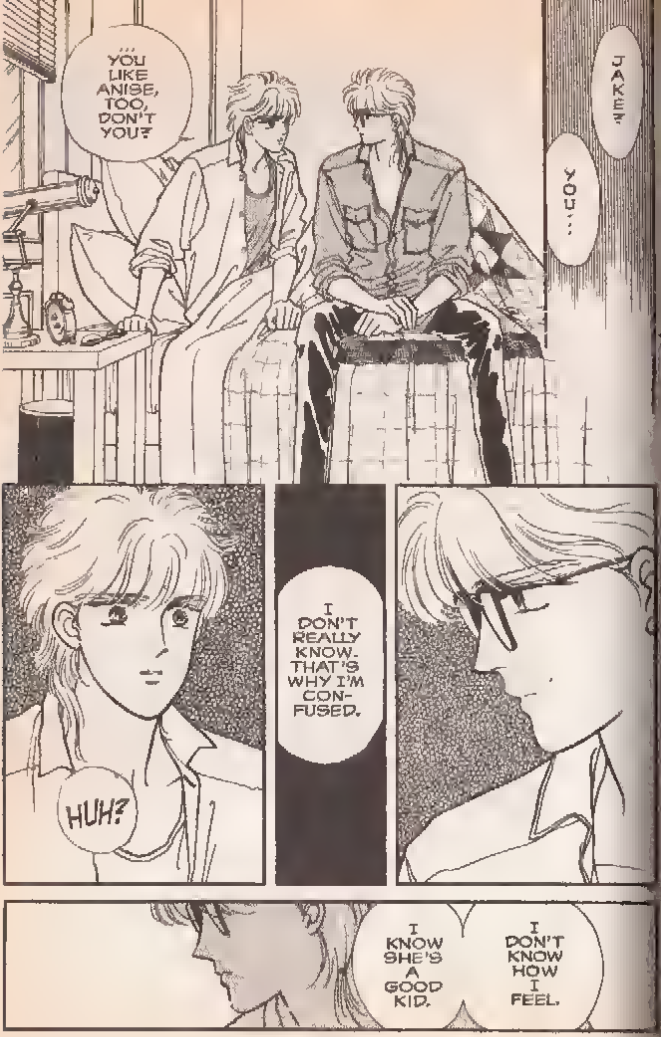

"I'LL LET YOU HAVE HER, THEN."
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK
Uhh hh...
...I FEEL SO HOT...
STRANGE...
"...LET YOU HAVE HER..."

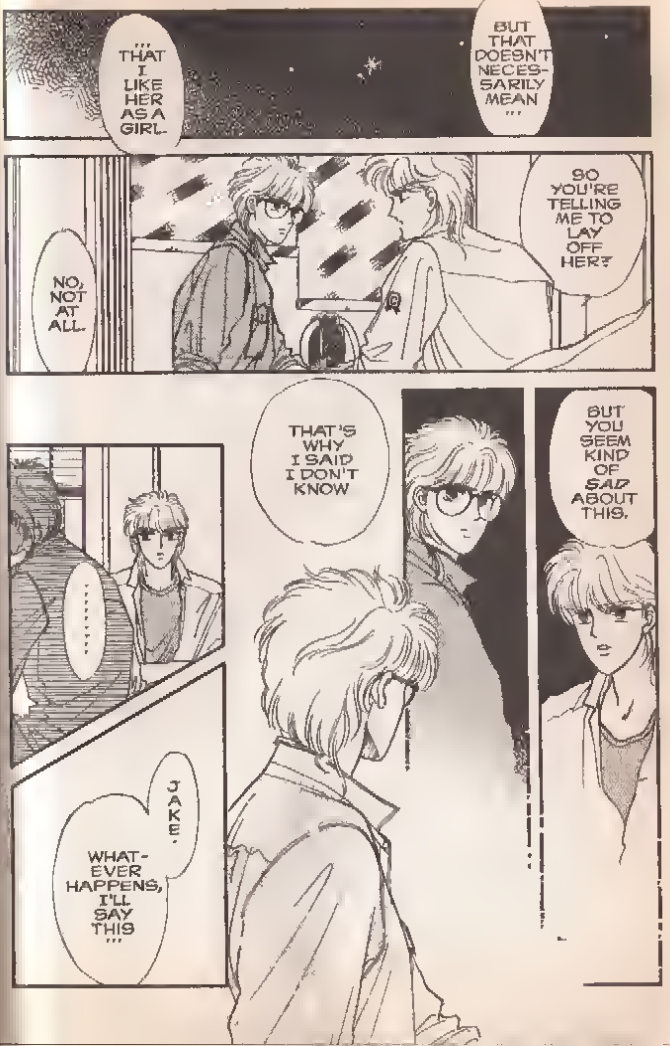

FOR INSTANCE, IF A "JAKE FRIEND" INVITES ME TO A PARTY, I TELL HIM TO WAIT FOR A REPLY. THEN I GO HOME AND TELL JAKE. IF HE'S OKAY WITH IT, THEN HE GOES TO THE PARTY.
FOR US TO SHARE ONE LIFE WITHOUT OUR SECRET GETTING OUT, WE HAVE TO TAKE A LOT OF CAUTION. IT'S ALSO COMMON DECENCY TO OUR FRIENDS AND GIRLFRIENDS.
EVER SINCE WE STARTED SHARING ONE LIFE, WE'VE HAD SOME IMPLICIT RULES.
ALL OUR ACQUAINTANCES-- AND OF COURSE, GIRLS--ARE DIVIDED INTO "MAINLY JAKE" AND "MAINLY ROY."
CIPHER'S SIVA'S

TIME IS UP. LET'S LOOK.
KACHIK
BETTER GET SOMETHING IN YOUR STOMACH BEFORE TAKING THE MEDICINE.
I'LL GET IT.
SORRY, JAKE.
99.8 DE-GREES.
YOU BETTER STAY IN BED. I'LL GO DO THE JOB.

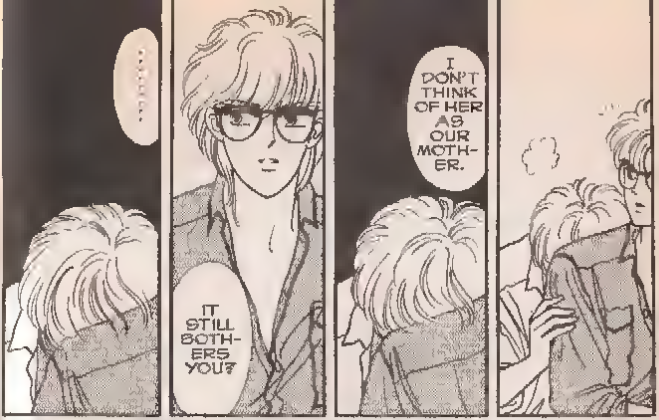

IS IT MORE IMPORTANT THAN TAKING YOUR MEDICINE?
IT'S SOMETHING WE NEED TO CLEAR UP BEFORE YOU GO OUT.
PLEASE.
HAVE A SEAT. WE NEED TO TALK.
WHAT?
IS IT ABOUT ANISE?
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT SINCE LAST NIGHT.
WHAT DID YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAID, "I'LL LET YOU HAVE HER, THEN?"


I'M ASKING PRECISELY BECAUSE I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN.
NOTHING SPECIAL I MEANT JUST WHAT I SAID.
DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE PUTTING ANISE INTO MY TERRI-TROY?
YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THAT!
.....
IF ANYONE GETS TO CHOOSE, IT SHOULD BE ANISE HERSELF!
FROM THE START, WE'VE BEEN SHARING ANISE EQUALLY.
I GUESS SO.
.....
Huff

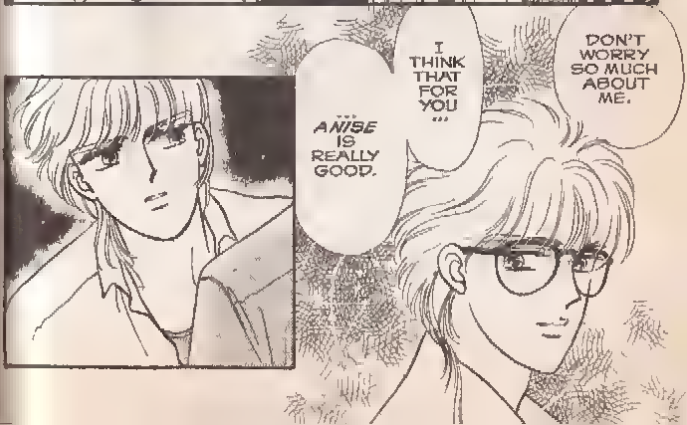

JAKE?
YOU...
...YOU LIKE ANISE, TOO, DON'T YOU?
I DON'T REALLY KNOW. THAT'S WHY I'M CONFUSED.
HUH?
I KNOW SHE'S A GOOD KID.
I DON'T KNOW HOW I FEEL.


BUT THAT DOESN'T NECES-SARILY MEAN ...
...THAT I LIKE HER AS A GIRL.
SO YOU'RE TELLING ME TO LAY OFF HER?
NO, NOT AT ALL.
BUT YOU SEEM KIND OF SAD ABOUT THIS.
THAT'S WHY I SAID I DON'T KNOW
.....
JAKE.
WHAT-EVER HAPPENS, I'LL SAY THIS ...

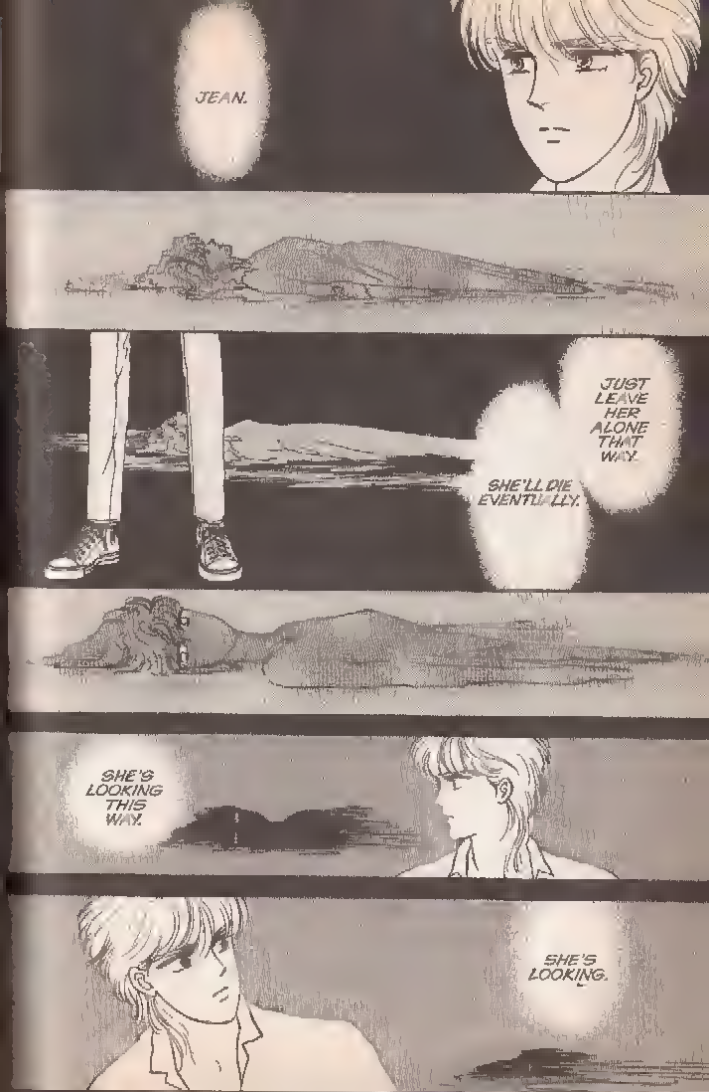
... I'D GIVE UP ANISE ANY-TIME.
... IF THERE'S A CHANCE THAT I'D LOOSE YOU ...
WHAT?
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT SO SIMPLY?
IT'S NOT SIMPLE.
SAY-ING SUCH A THING TO YOUR ONLY FAMILY!
THAT'S SO MEAN!
YOU'RE CRAZY! NUTS!
WE HAVE JEAN, TOO.
.....
REALLY.
THAT'S HOW IM-PORT-ANT YOU ARE TO ME.


.....
IT STILL BOTHERS YOU?
I DON'T THINK OF HER AS OUR MOTHER.

I THINK JEAN IS THE ORIGIN OF ALL YOUR FEELINGS.
SHE TAUGHT YOU ABOUT LOVE.


DON'T WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT ME.
I THINK THAT FOR YOU ...
...ANISE IS REALLY GOOD.

I WISH YOU WERE A LITTLE SAD ABOUT IT.
TOTALLY.
YOU'RE TOTALLY OKAY WITH IT?
NAH.
YOU DON'T REALLY MIND?
...
CLACK
KACHAK
CLATTER
CLATTER
SHUT UP AND WAIT! I'LL MAKE SOME SOUP!
SLAM
CLOP CLOP CLOP


JEAN.
JUST LEAVE HER ALONE THAT WAY.
SHE'LL DIE EVENTUALLY.
SHE'S LOOKING THIS WAY.
SHE'S LOOKING.

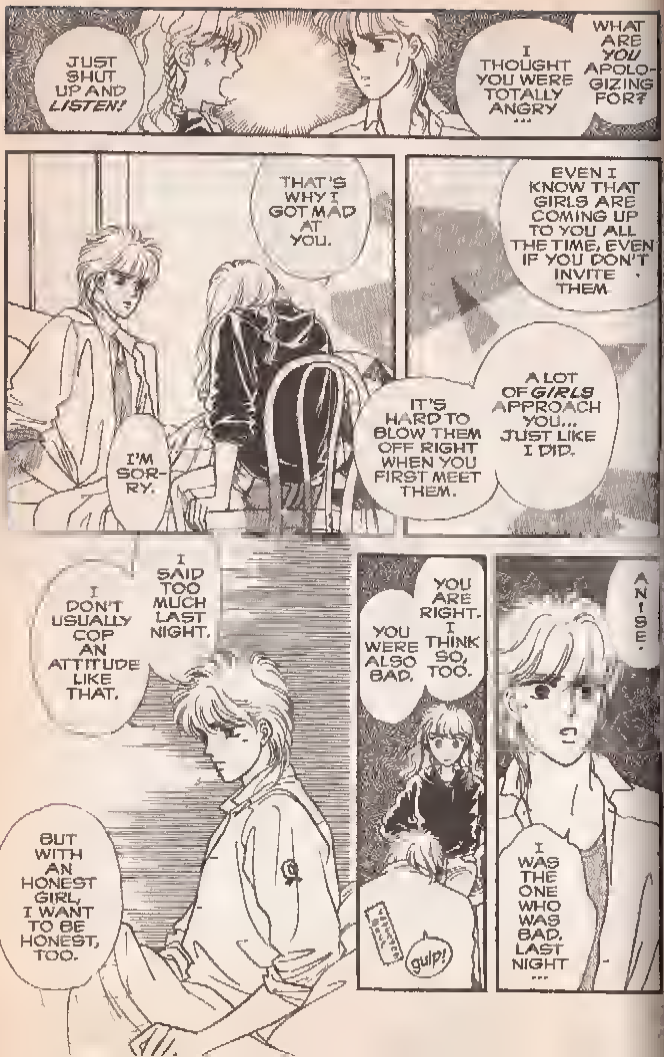
THE NUMBER OF CATS AT THE NARITA HOME HAS GONE UP. IT'S A 4-6 MONTH OLD LONGHAIRED HIMALAYAN. MY CAT ELLIE (THE SAME ONE THAT LIVES WITH CICHIRO) IS ALSO A LONGHAIR, SO ONE OF MY NEIGHBOR'S BROUGHT THE NEW ONE OVER SAYING, "ISN'T THIS YOUR CAT?"

TOM BAILEY

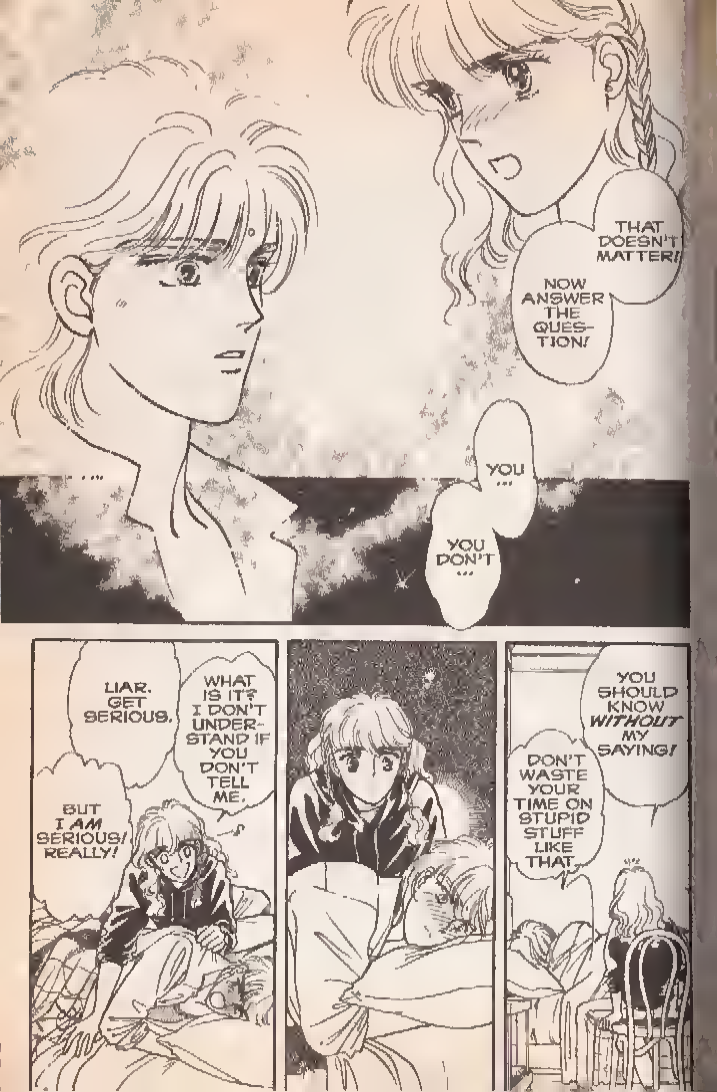
THOMPSON TWINS

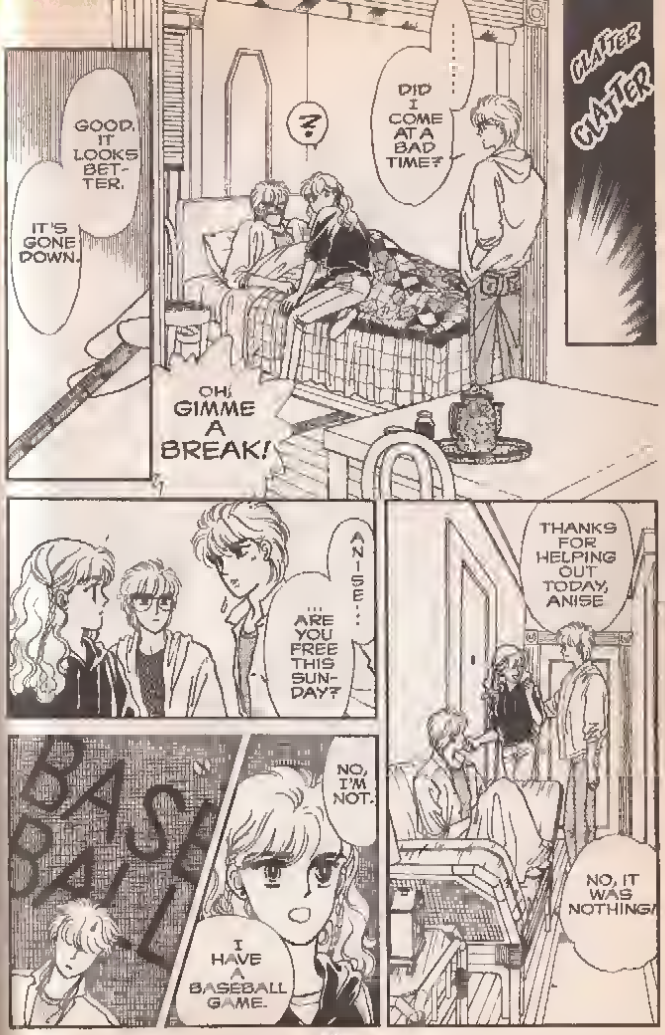
FOR A WHILE WE TRIED A BUNCH OF NAMES LIKE SUCH AND TOME, BUT EVENTUALLY I SAID, "A FOREIGN CAT JUST HAS TO BE NAMED TOM," AND IT STUCK. IT'S PRETTY CLEAR WHERE I GOT THE NAME "TOM" FROM.

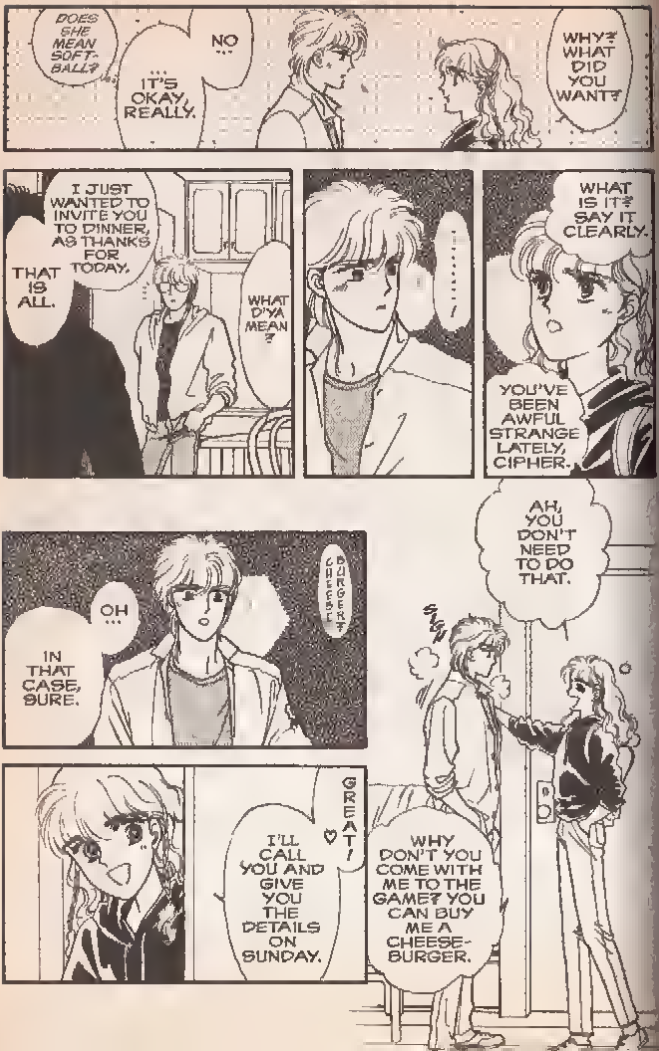
I DIDN'T MEAN TO WAKE YOU.
YOUR ARMS WERE OUT, SO I THOUGHT I'D COVER THEM UP.
SO YOU HAVE A FEVER?
SIVA CONTACTED THE SCHOOL TO LET ME KNOW TO DROP BY ON MY WAY HOME.
NO, I'M SORRY.
ABOUT YESTERDAY.
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU.

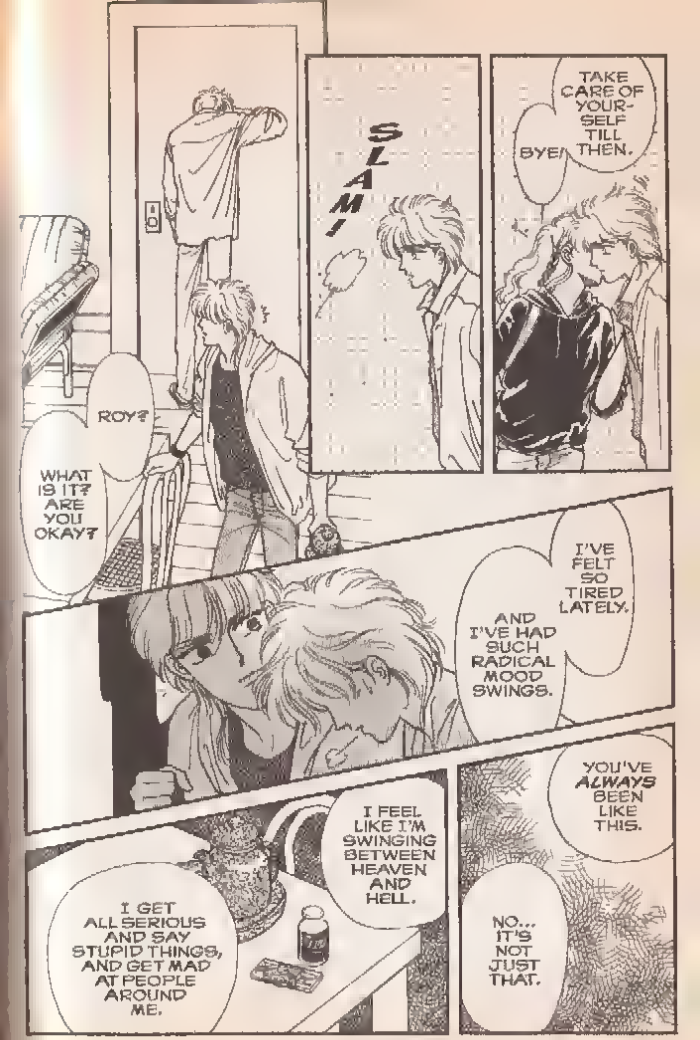

JUST SHUT UP AND LISTEN!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE TOTALLY ANGRY ...
WHAT ARE YOU APOLOGIZING FOR?
THAT'S WHY I GOT MAD AT YOU.
I'M SORRY.
EVEN I KNOW THAT GIRLS ARE COMING UP TO YOU ALL THE TIME, EVEN IF YOU DON'T INVITE THEM.
A LOT OF GIRLS APPROACH YOU... JUST LIKE I DID.
IT'S HARD TO BLOW THEM OFF RIGHT WHEN YOU FIRST MEET THEM.
I SAID TOO MUCH LAST NIGHT.
I DON'T USUALLY COP AN ATTITUDE LIKE THAT.
BUT WITH AN HONEST GIRL, I WANT TO BE HONEST, TOO.
YOU ARE RIGHT. I THINK SO, TOO.
YOU WERE ALSO BAD.
gulp!
ANISE.
I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS BAD, LAST NIGHT ...

AND ME?
WHICH GROUP DO I BELONG TO?
SO DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE DISHONEST WITH OTHER GIRLS?
TH-THUMP
AH...
EVEN AS A FRIEND, I'M THE ONE WHO APPROACHED YOU.
YOU'VE NEVER ONCE SAID, "I WANT YOU TO COME OVER," OR "I WANT TO MEET YOU."
WHEN I HEARD YOU SAY, "SHE CAME TO ME OF HER OWN FREE WILL. I DIDN'T APPROACH HER"...
...I THOUGHT MY HEART WOULD STOP.
BUT IS THAT...
...WHY'D YOU GET THAT ANGRY?

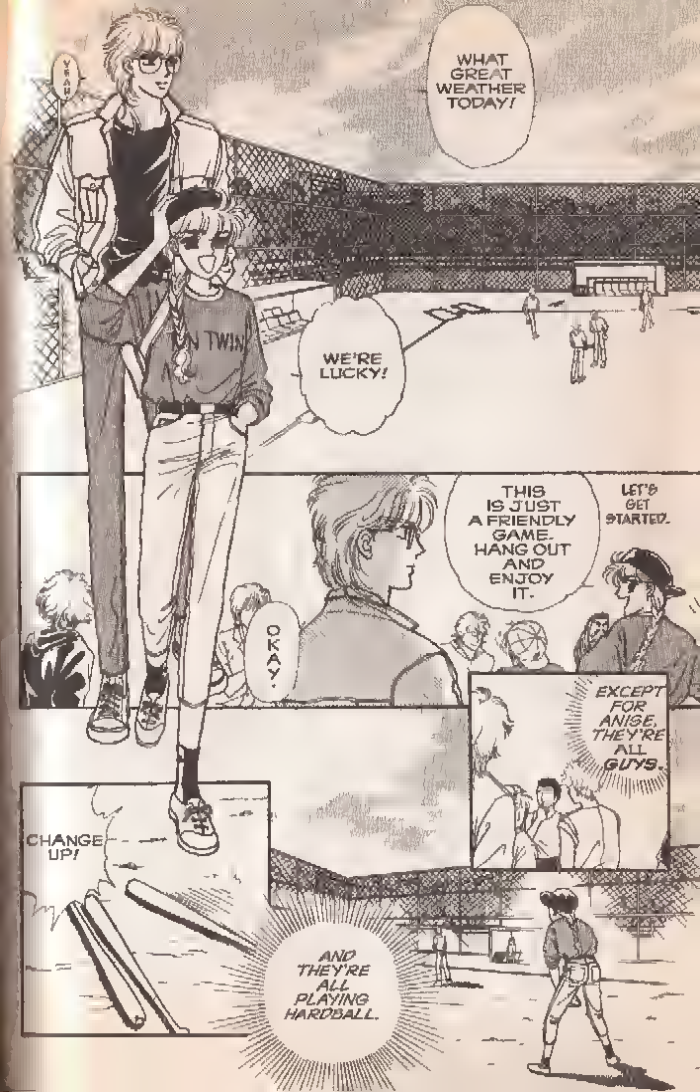

THAT DOESN'T MATTER!
NOW ANSWER THE QUES-TION!
YOU ...
YOU DON'T ...
LIAR. GET SERIOUS.
WHAT IS IT? I DON'T UNDER-STAND IF YOU DON'T TELL ME.
BUT I AM SERIOUS! REALLY!
YOU SHOULD KNOW WITHOUT MY SAYING!
DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME ON STUPID STUFF LIKE THAT.


GOOD. IT LOOKS BETTER.
IT'S GONE DOWN.
?
DID I COME AT A BAD TIME?
.....
CLATTER CLATTER
OH, GIMME A BREAK!
ANISE...
...ARE YOU FREE THIS SUNDAY?
BASE BALL
I HAVE A BASEBALL GAME.
NO, I'M NOT.
THANKS FOR HELPING OUT TODAY, ANISE
NO, IT WAS NOTHING!

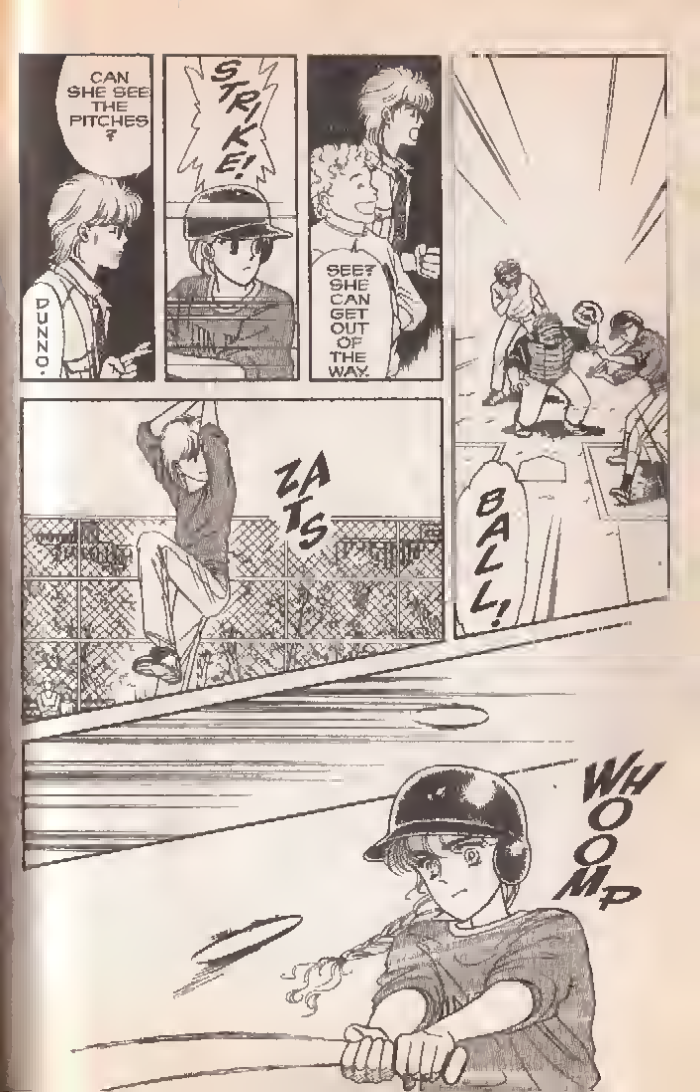

DOES SHE MEAN SOFT-BALL?
NO ...
... IT'S OKAY, REALLY.
WHY? WHAT DID YOU WANT?
I JUST WANTED TO INVITE YOU TO DINNER, AS THANKS FOR TODAY.
THAT IS ALL.
WHAT D'YA MEAN?
.....
WHAT IS IT? SAY IT CLEARLY.
YOU'VE BEEN AWFUL STRANGE LATELY, CIPHER.
AH, YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THAT.
SIGH
WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME TO THE GAME? YOU CAN BUY ME A CHEESE-BURGER.
GREAT!
I'LL CALL YOU AND GIVE YOU THE DETAILS ON SUNDAY.
BURGER? CHEESE!
OH ...
IN THAT CASE, SURE.


TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF TILL THEN.
BYE!
SLAM!
ROY?
WHAT IS IT? ARE YOU OKAY?
I'VE FELT SO TIRED LATELY.
AND I'VE HAD SUCH RADICAL MOOD SWINGS.
I FEEL LIKE I'M SWINGING BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL.
I GET ALL SERIOUS AND SAY STUPID THINGS, AND GET MAD AT PEOPLE AROUND ME.
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS.
NO... IT'S NOT JUST THAT.

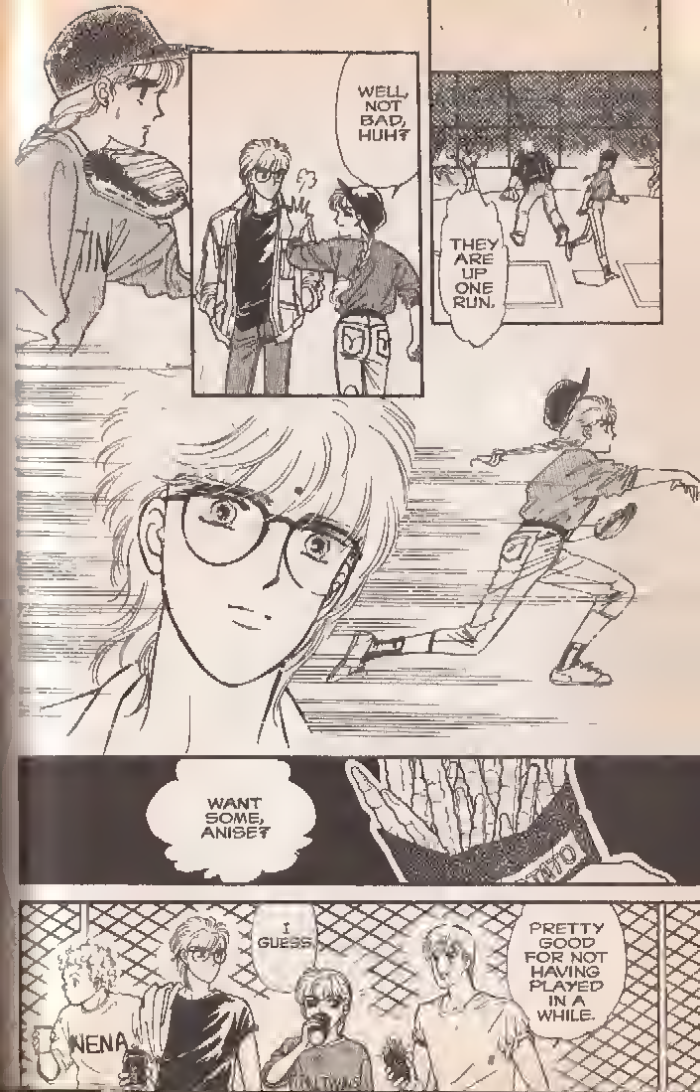
IT'S PATHETIC TO GIVE UP LIKE THAT.
Hmph.
SHO
CK
I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY BE-FORE.
I'M SO CON-FUSED.
HOW IMMA-TURE!
IT SHOWS YOU'RE A KID WITH NO SELF-CONTROL.
.....

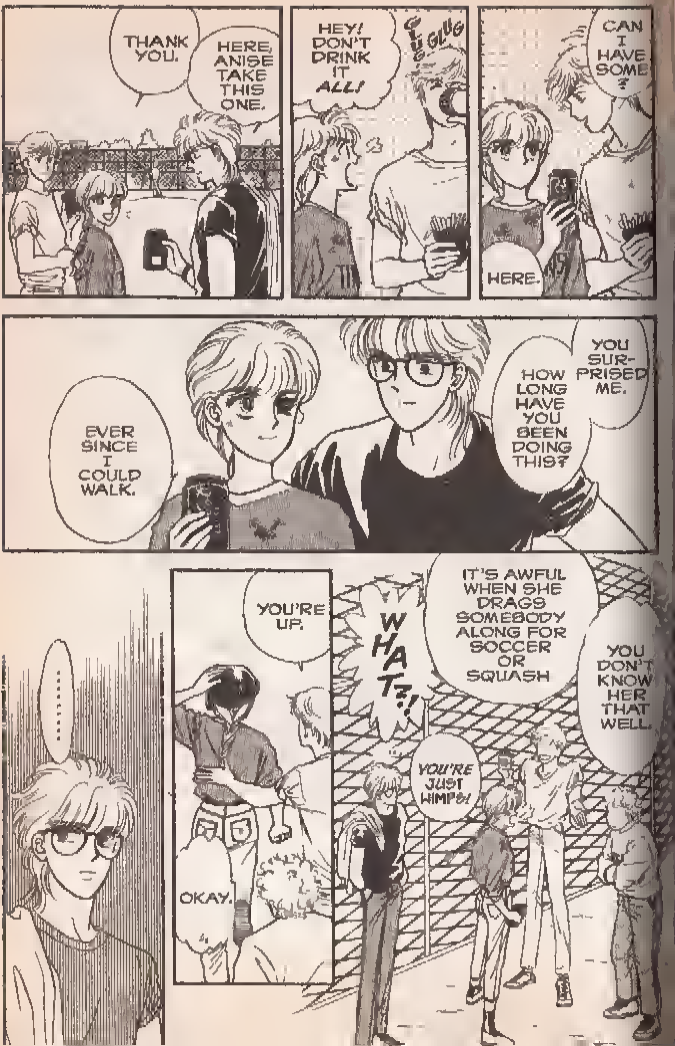

YEAH!
WHAT GREAT WEATHER TODAY!
WE'RE LUCKY!
THIS IS JUST A FRIENDLY GAME. HANG OUT AND ENJOY IT.
LET'S GET STARTED.
OKAY.
EXCEPT FOR ANISE, THEY'RE ALL GUYS.
CHANGE UP!
AND THEY'RE ALL PLAYING HARDBALL.

I'M THE LEAD OFF HITTER. WE'LL TALK LATER.
YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST PLAY ON A TEAM WITH GUYS?!
TWINS
ANISE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HUH?
HEY!
HOW CAN YOU JUST SIT THERE AND LET THIS HAPPEN.
WHAT?!
DON'T WORRY. SHE'S USED TO GETTING HIT SOME.
BUT WHAT IF SHE GETS HIT IN THE FACE?
OH, ARE YOU A FRIEND OF ANISE?
IF
YOU KNOW WHAT SHE'S LIKE,
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN STOP HER.


CAN SHE SEE THE PITCHES?
DUNNO.
STRIKE!
SEE? SHE CAN GET OUT OF THE WAY.
BALL!
ZATS
WHOOMP

SHE'S GOT A HIT!
GO! GO!
ZA
SAFE!
!
TOLD YA NOT TO WORRY.
BUT HER CHEST ...
SHE'S NOT WEARING A BRA.
GEHAN


WELL, NOT BAD, HUH?
THEY ARE UP ONE RUN.
WANT SOME, ANISE?
I GUESS.
PRETTY GOOD FOR NOT HAVING PLAYED IN A WHILE.
NENA

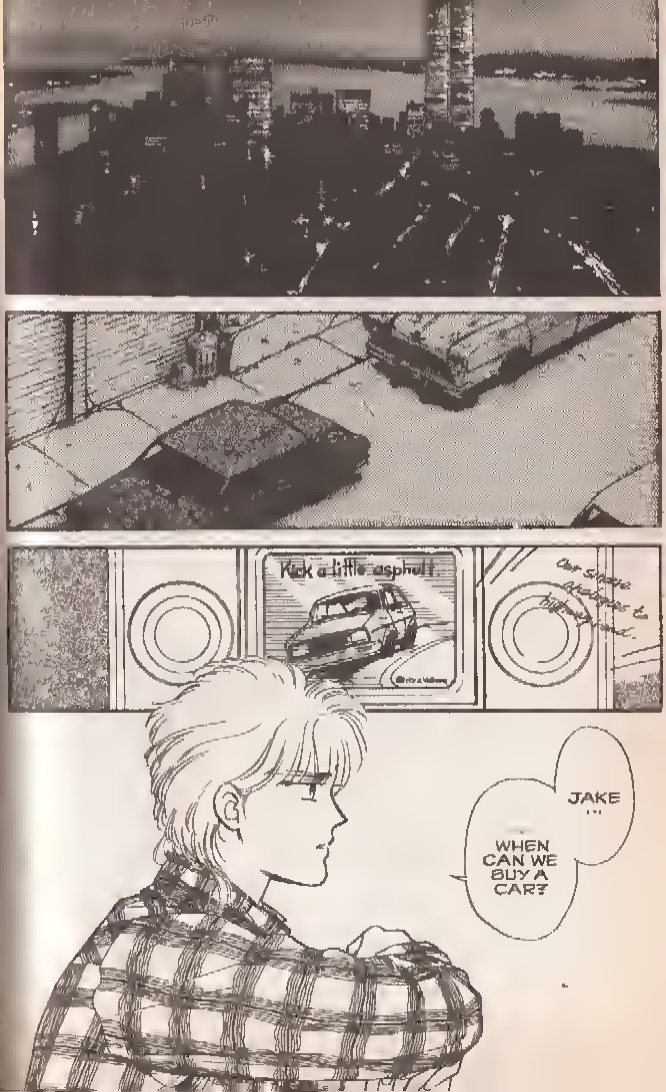

THANK YOU.
HERE, ANISE TAKE THIS ONE.
HEY! DON'T DRINK IT ALL!
GLUG GLUG
CAN I HAVE SOME?
HERE.
YOU SURPRISED ME.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DOING THIS?
EVER SINCE I COULD WALK.
YOU'RE UP.
OKAY.
WHAT?!
IT'S AWFUL WHEN SHE DRAGS SOMEBODY ALONG FOR SOCCER OR SQUASH
YOU DON'T KNOW HER THAT WELL.
YOU'RE JUST WIMPS!
.....

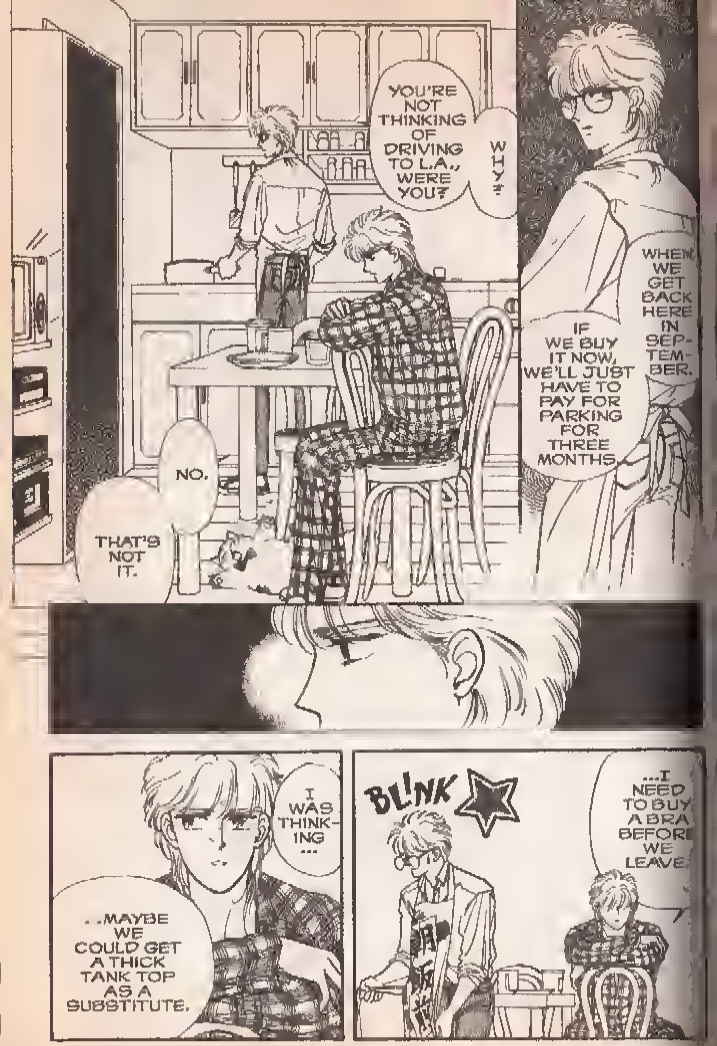
OLD MAN ROBERTS SAYS HE HASN'T SEEN YOU FOR A WHILE.
NAH. LET US GO GET PIZ-ZA.
REALLY?
YOU SAID YOU'D TREAT ME.
I WANT HAM-BURG-ERS!
YEAH
YEAH!
YES! TWO RUNS BATTED IN!
LET'S GO OUT AND CELE-BRATE!
WHAT?! NOBODY TOLD ME!
IN APRIL, WE HAD A PARTY FOR TINO'S SECOND BIRTH-DAY.
IT WAS FUN.

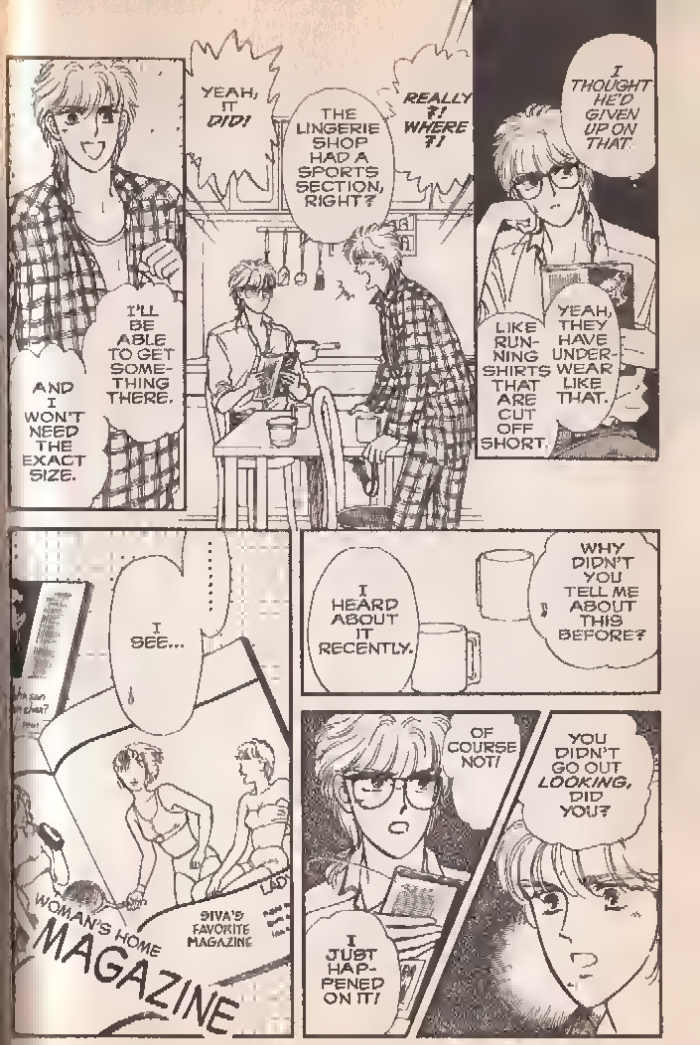
COMO'S PIZZA
PIZZA
HEY, ANISE, DON'T BE A STRANGER.
G'NIGHT, BOYS!
GOOD NIGHT, ROBERTO.
THAT WAS GREAT!
BYE.
ARE YOU WALKING HOME, ANISE?
IT'S AWFULLY LATE FOR THAT.
DON'T WORRY. EVERYBODY LIVES IN THE SAME DIRECTION, SO WE ALL GO TOGETHER.
GOOD NIGHT.
Hm...
THE SUBWAY'S MORE DANGEROUS.
BE CAREFUL.
UM.
!

NEED A RIDE HOME?
HEY, ANISE.
YEAH, THANKS.
.....
HEY, ARE YOU DRUNK? HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP GOING?
SLAP
TWINS
BUCKLE UP.
OKAY.
CLICK
CLICK
TWINS

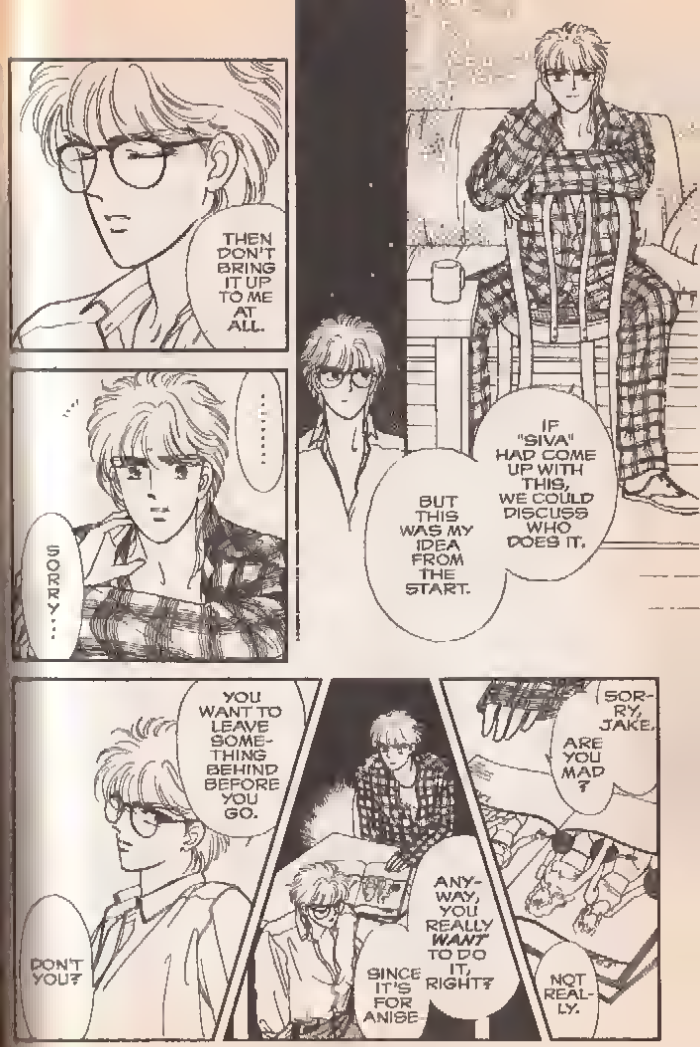
BYE.
SEE YOU LATER, CI-PHER.
BYE BYE.
REAL ESTATE


Kick a little asphalt
Our simple pleasures in life
JAKE ...
WHEN CAN WE BUY A CAR?


YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF DRIVING TO L.A., WERE YOU?
WHY?
WHEN WE GET BACK HERE IN SEPTEMBER.
IF WE BUY IT NOW, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO PAY FOR PARKING FOR THREE MONTHS.
NO.
THAT'S NOT IT.
I WAS THINKING...
...MAYBE WE COULD GET A THICK TANK TOP AS A SUBSTITUTE.
BLINK
...I NEED TO BUY A BRA BEFORE WE LEAVE.


I THOUGHT HE'D GIVEN UP ON THAT.
YEAH, THEY HAVE UNDER-WEAR LIKE THAT.
LIKE RUN-NING SHIRTS THAT ARE CUT OFF SHORT.
REALLY?! WHERE?!
THE LINGERIE SHOP HAD A SPORTS SECTION, RIGHT?
YEAH, IT DID!
I'LL BE ABLE TO GET SOME-THING THERE.
AND I WON'T NEED THE EXACT SIZE.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS BEFORE?
I HEARD ABOUT IT RECENTLY.
YOU DIDN'T GO OUT LOOKING, DID YOU?
OF COURSE NOT!
I JUST HAP-PENED ON IT!
I SEE...
WOMAN'S HOME MAGAZINE
EIVA'S FAVORITE MAGAZINE

HUH?
YOU WANT ME TO BUY IT?
THIS TIME I'LL GET SOMETHING FOR SURE!
YEAH!
DEPT STORES ARE OPEN UNTIL SIX ON TUESDAYS.
I DON'T HATE THEM EITHER.
.....
AND I DON'T MIND LINGERIE SHOPS.
I HAVE TO GO TO THE BANK ANYWAY, TOMORROW.
BUT I'LL DO THIS MYSELF.
THANKS, JAKE.

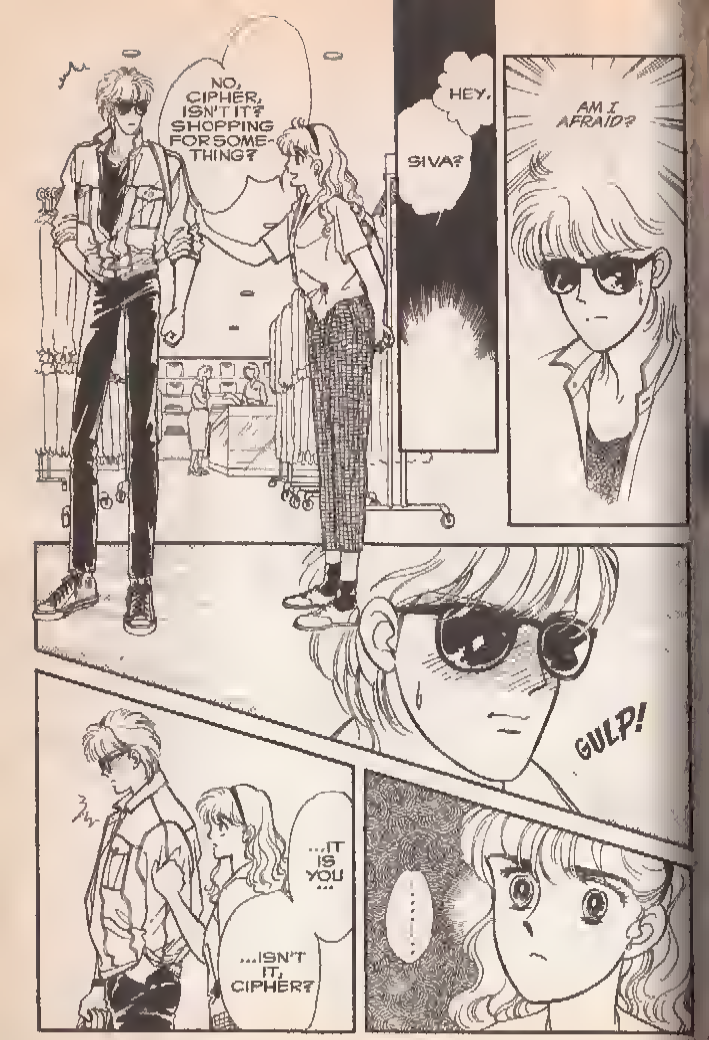

THEN DON'T BRING IT UP TO ME AT ALL.
IF "SIVA" HAD COME UP WITH THIS, WE COULD DISCUSS WHO DOES IT.
BUT THIS WAS MY IDEA FROM THE START.
.....
SORRY...
YOU WANT TO LEAVE SOMETHING BEHIND BEFORE YOU GO.
DON'T YOU?
ANYWAY, YOU REALLY WANT TO DO IT, RIGHT?
SINCE IT'S FOR ANISE-
SORRY, JAKE. ARE YOU MAD?
NOT REALLY.

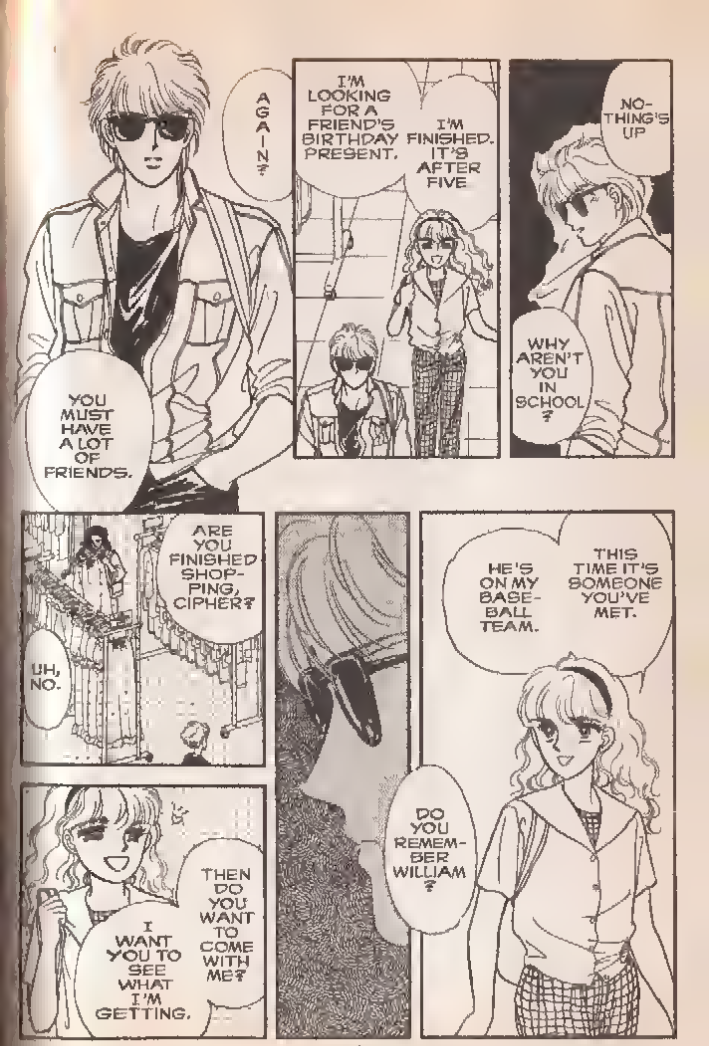
THAT'S PLENTY OF TIME FOR HER TO GET TAKEN BY SOMEONE ELSE.
WELL, YEAH, WE'LL BE SEPARATED FOR THREE MONTHS.
NO... I CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT NOW.
IS THERE ANY-THING YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
AND YOU SEEM REALLY NERVOUS... IRRIT-ABLE.
JAKE...
YOU'VE BEEN KINDA *MEAN* LATELY.

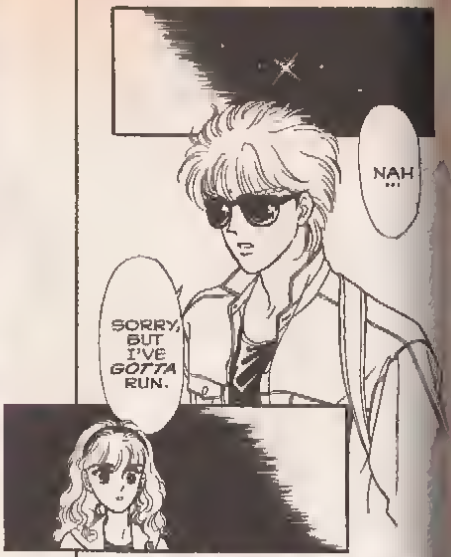
TO ANISE, I'M JUST A FRIEND
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I OPEN UP TO HER, SHE WON'T UNDER-STAND MY FEELINGS.
SHE EVEN GOT SO UPSET ABOUT THAT BRA THING.
IF I SAY SOME-THING WRONG, IT'LL JUST BE WORSE.
ARE YOU AFRAID ?
CLICK

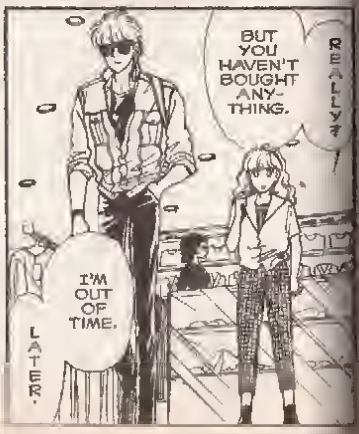
Click
CLUMP
I'M GOING TO BED.
TURN

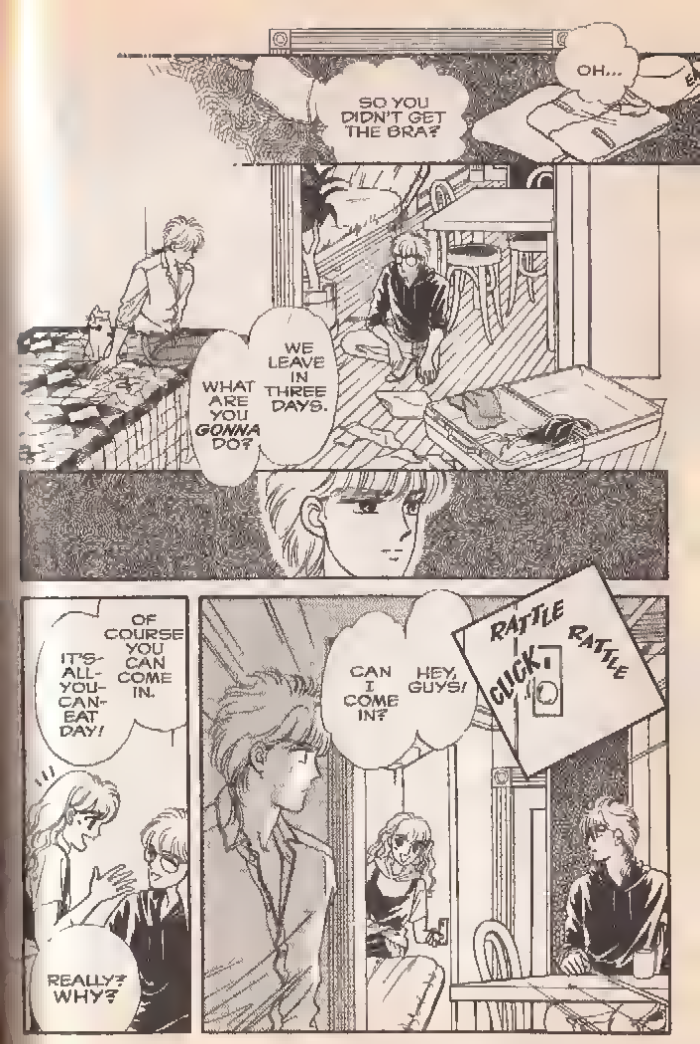
THIS TIME FOR SURE!
Cracked Face
SHUM SHUM SHUM
HUH?
I WALKED RIGHT THROUGH THE SHOP!

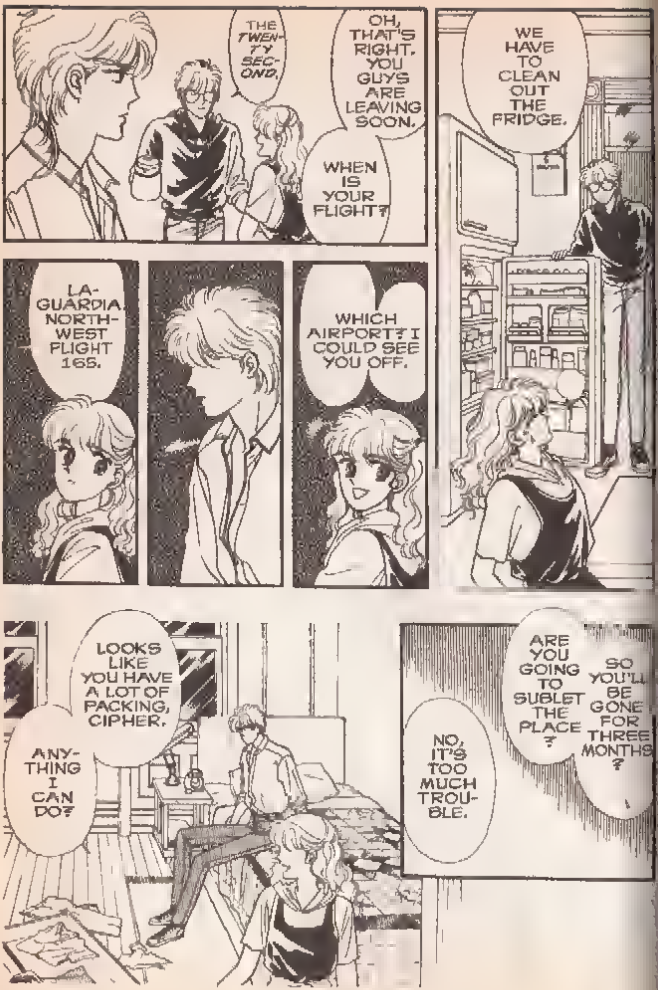

NO, CIPHER, ISN'T IT? SHOPPING FOR SOME-THING?
HEY, SIVA?
AM I AFRAID?
GULP!
...IT IS YOU...
...ISN'T IT, CIPHER?

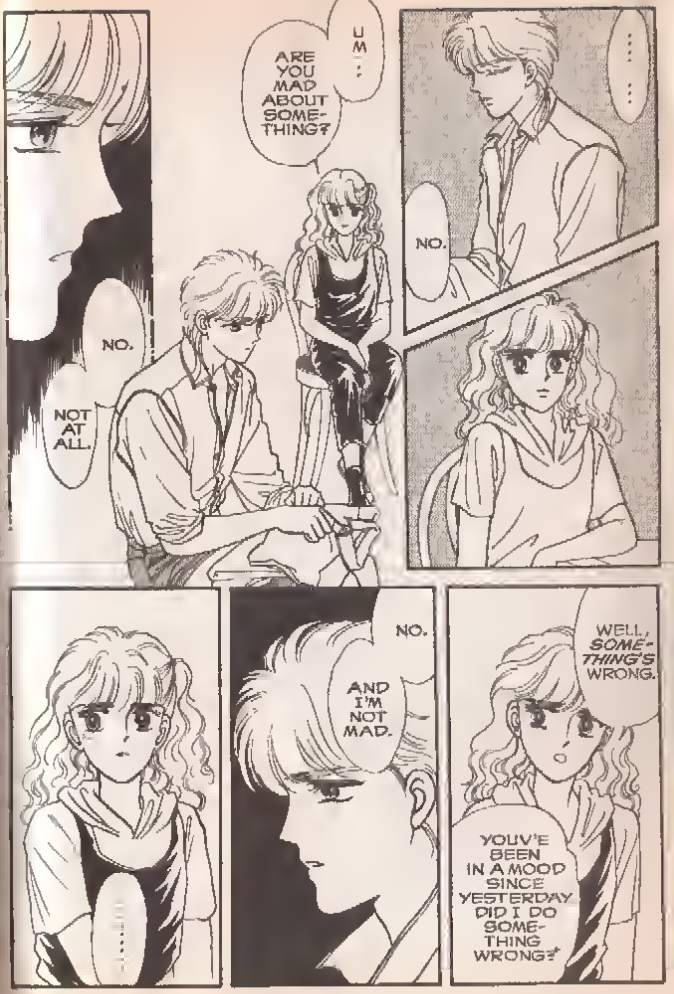

AGAIN?
YOU MUST HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS.
I'M LOOKING FOR A FRIEND'S BIRTHDAY PRESENT.
I'M FINISHED. IT'S AFTER FIVE
NOTHING'S UP
WHY AREN'T YOU IN SCHOOL?
ARE YOU FINISHED SHOPPING, CIPHER?
UH, NO.
I WANT YOU TO SEE WHAT I'M GETTING.
THEN DO YOU WANT TO COME WITH ME?
DO YOU REMEMBER WILLIAM?
HE'S ON MY BASEBALL TEAM.
THIS TIME IT'S SOMEONE YOU'VE MET.


NAH...
SORRY, BUT I'VE GOTTA RUN.


REALLY?
BUT YOU HAVEN'T BOUGHT ANY-THING.
I'M OUT OF TIME.
LATER.

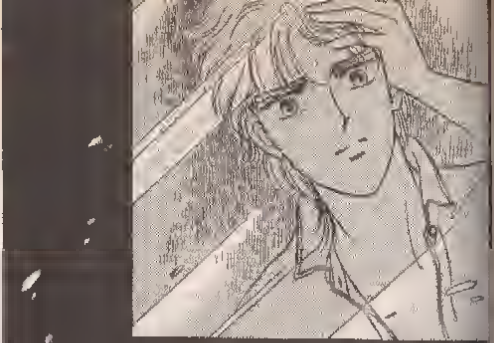
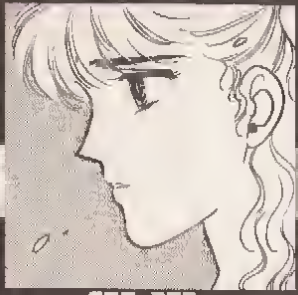
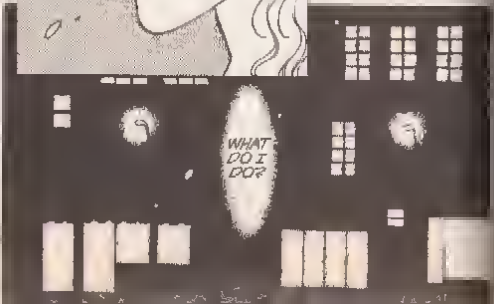

OH...
SO YOU DIDN'T GET THE BRA?
WE LEAVE IN THREE DAYS.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
RATTLE
CLICK
RATTLE
CAN I COME IN?
HEY, GUYS!
OF COURSE YOU CAN COME IN.
IT'S-ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT DAY!
REALLY? WHY?

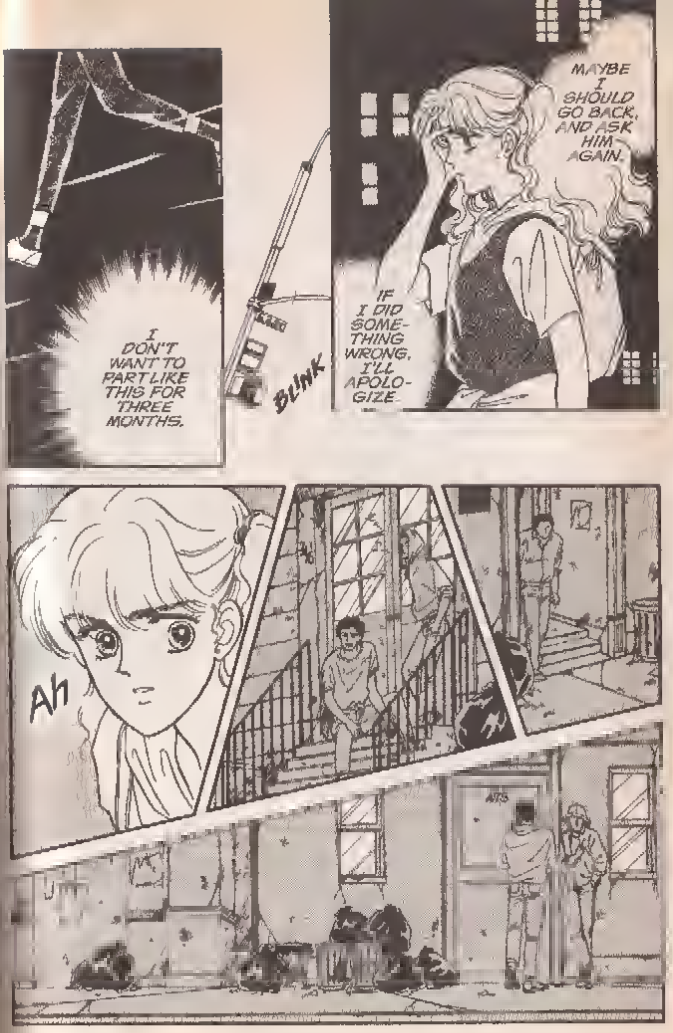

THE TWENTY-SECOND.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU GUYS ARE LEAVING SOON.
WHEN IS YOUR FLIGHT?
LA-GUARDIA. NORTHWEST FLIGHT 165.
WHICH AIRPORT? I COULD SEE YOU OFF.
WE HAVE TO CLEAN OUT THE FRIDGE.
LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE A LOT OF PACKING, CIPHER.
ANYTHING I CAN DO?
NO, IT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE.
ARE YOU GOING TO SUBLET THE PLACE?
SO YOU'LL BE GONE FOR THREE MONTHS?


UM...
ARE YOU MAD ABOUT SOMETHING?
NO.
NOT AT ALL.
.....
NO.
NO.
AND I'M NOT MAD.
.....
WELL, SOMETHING'S WRONG.
YOU'VE BEEN IN A MOOD SINCE YESTERDAY DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?

I CAN FOLD THESE.
THEN LET ME HELP YOU.
NO THANKS.
GO DO SOME-THING ELSE!
SORRY.
I'LL GO HOME.

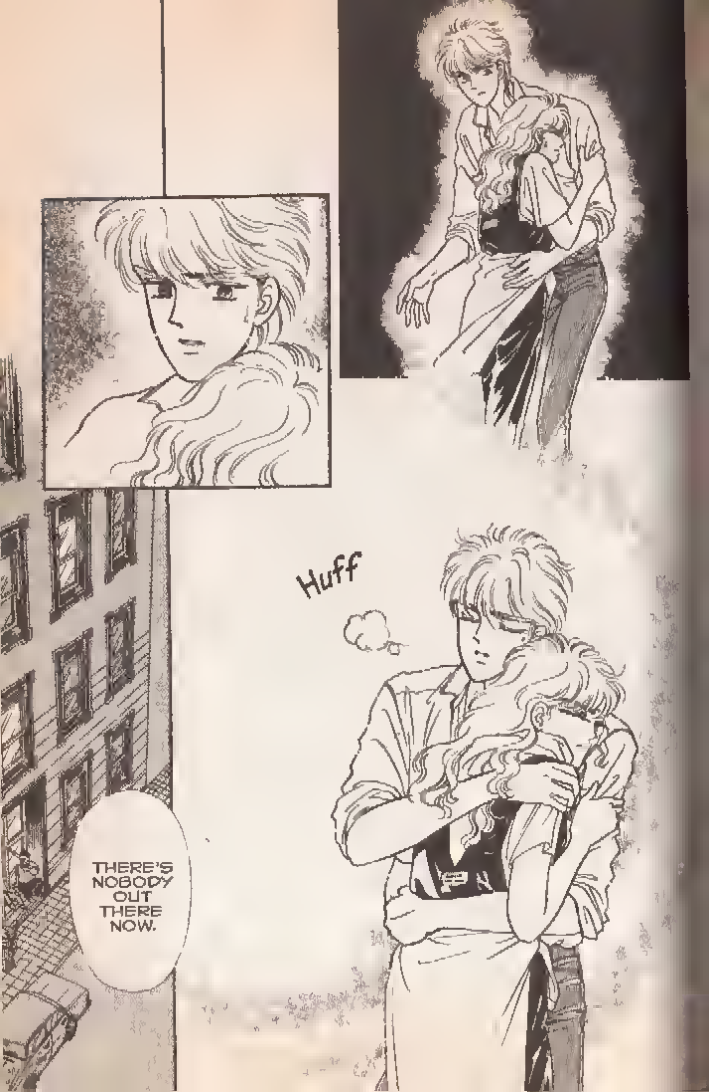
YOU JERK!
I KNOW! LEAVE ME ALONE!
SLAM
ANISE, WAIT!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED TO...

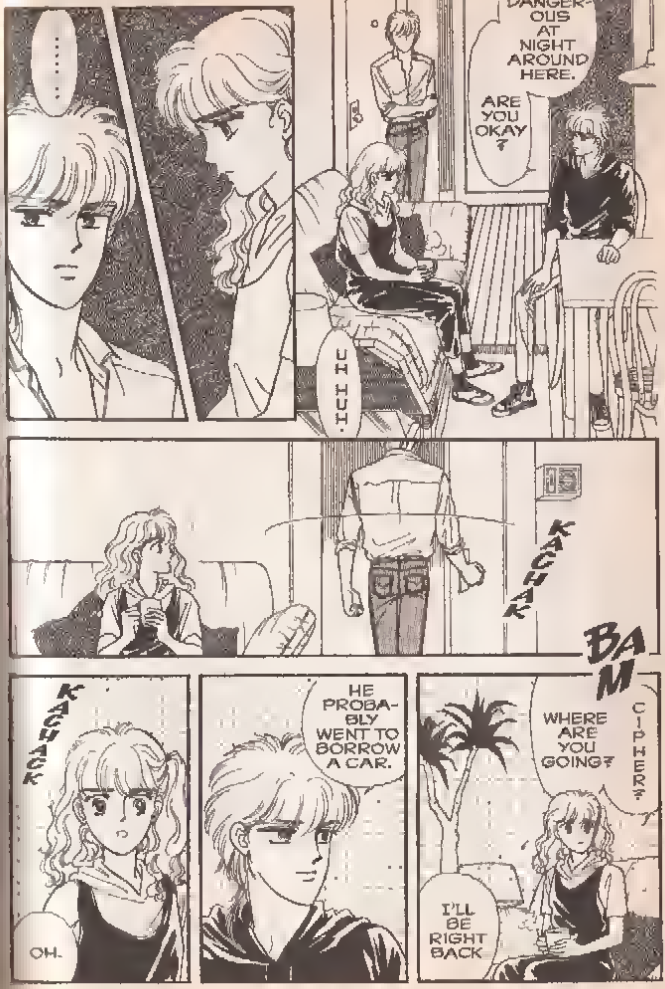
THE BEST PART IS, I GET TO CALL "TOM" EVERY DAY.
HEY, TOM! YOU WANT SOME MILK?
YES, PLEASE.
HE-HEHE JUST KID DING.
BUT IN REALITY...
I'M BEGINNING TO REGRET IT.
TOM! YOU'VE STILL GOT SOME CRAP ON YOUR BUTT!
CAN'T HELP IT. IT'S TOO HAIRY.
WAAAH!
HE REALLY IS TOO HAIRY.

THE MARK OF CAIN.



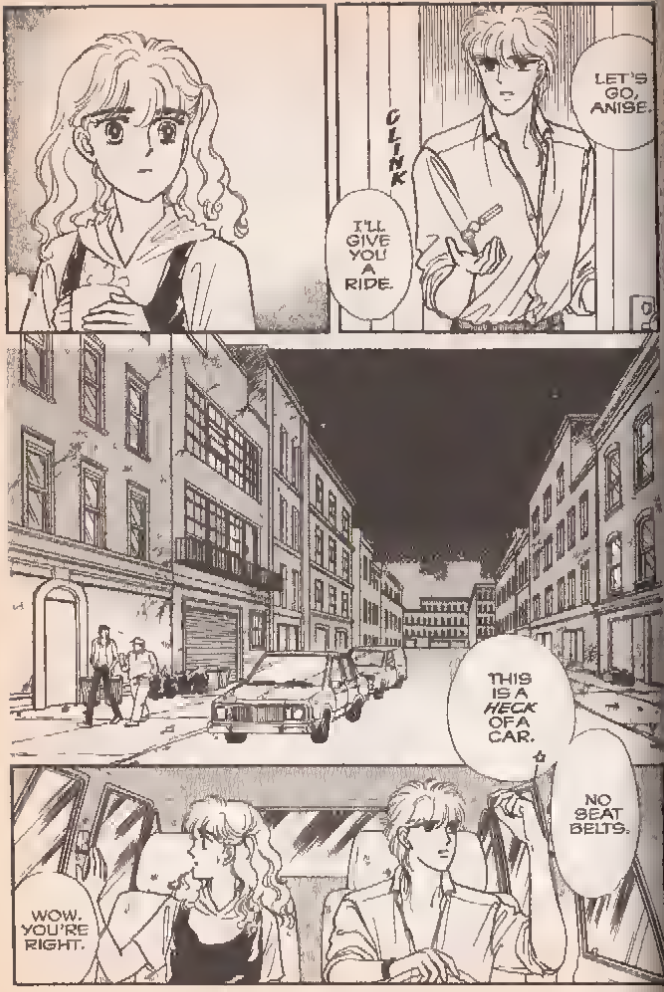

I DON'T WANT TO PART LIKE THIS FOR THREE MONTHS.
BLINK
IF I DID SOME-THING WRONG, I'LL APOLO-GIZE.
MAYBE I SHOULD GO BACK, AND ASK HIM AGAIN.
Ah
ATS

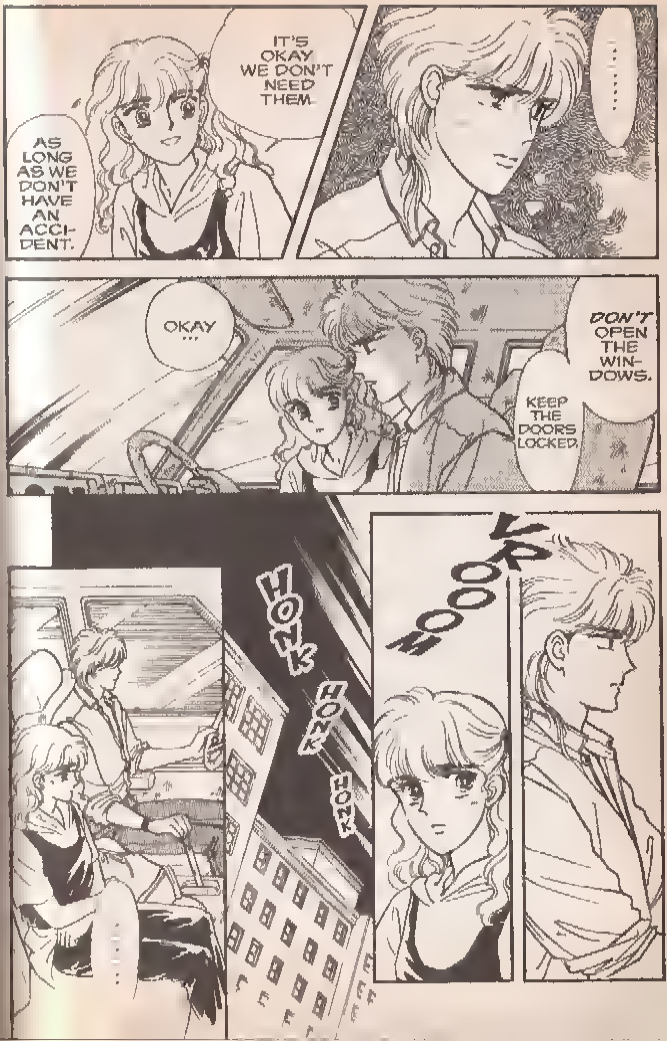
CHEESE
Ci--
CIPHER! SIVA!
HELP!
ANISE!

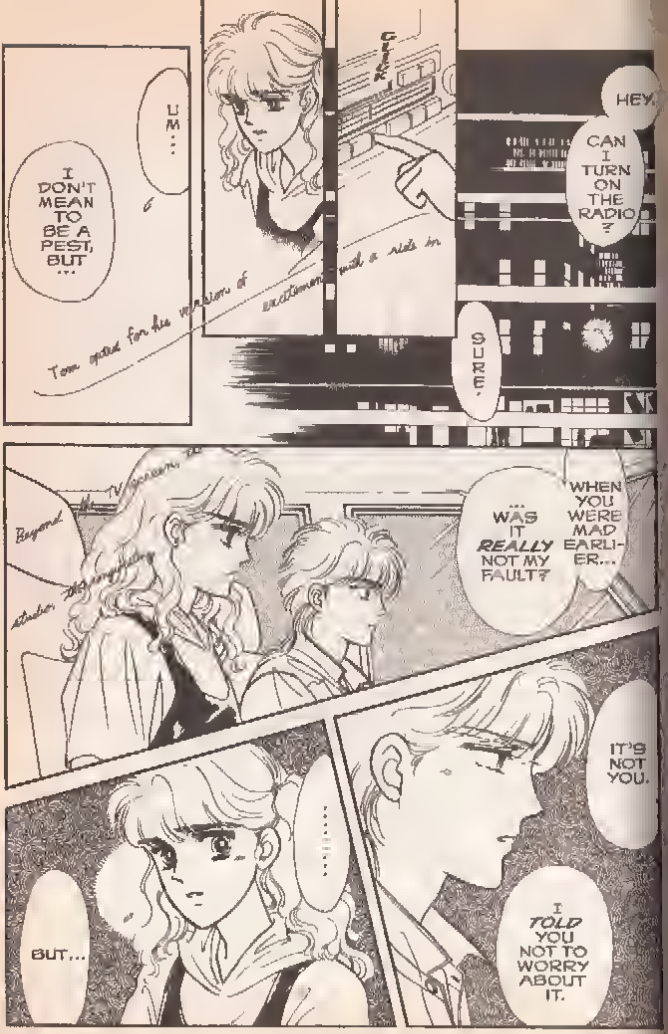
CIPHER?!
BAM
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
SOME-BODY GRABBED MY SHOULD-ER!
I THINK THEY'RE FOLLOW-ING ME!
!
I--
I DON'T--


THERE'S NOBODY OUT THERE NOW.
Huff


IT'S DANGEROUS AT NIGHT AROUND HERE.
ARE YOU OKAY?
UH HUH.
.....
KACHAK
BAM
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
CIPHER?
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
HE PROBABLY WENT TO BORROW A CAR.
KACHAK
OH.


I'LL GIVE YOU A RIDE.
CLINK
LET'S GO, ANISE.
THIS IS A HECK OF A CAR.
NO SEAT BELTS.
WOW. YOU'RE RIGHT.

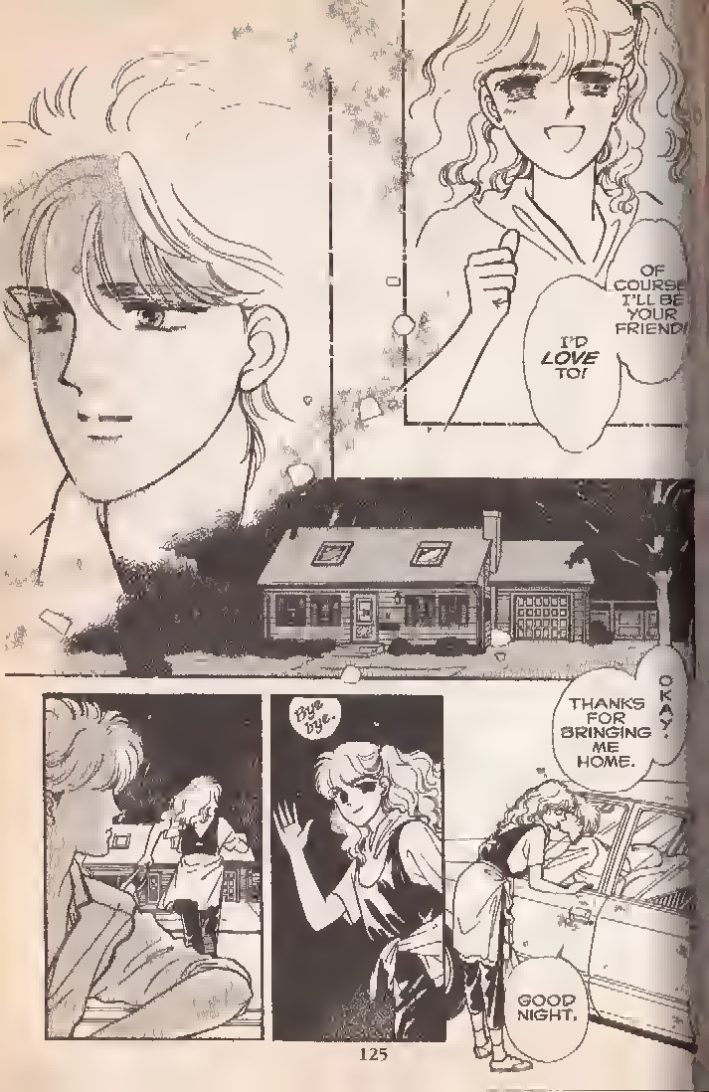

IT'S OKAY WE DON'T NEED THEM.
AS LONG AS WE DON'T HAVE AN ACCI-DENT.
.....
OKAY ...
DON'T OPEN THE WIN-DOWS.
KEEP THE DOORS LOCKED.
VROOM
HONK HONK HONK
.....

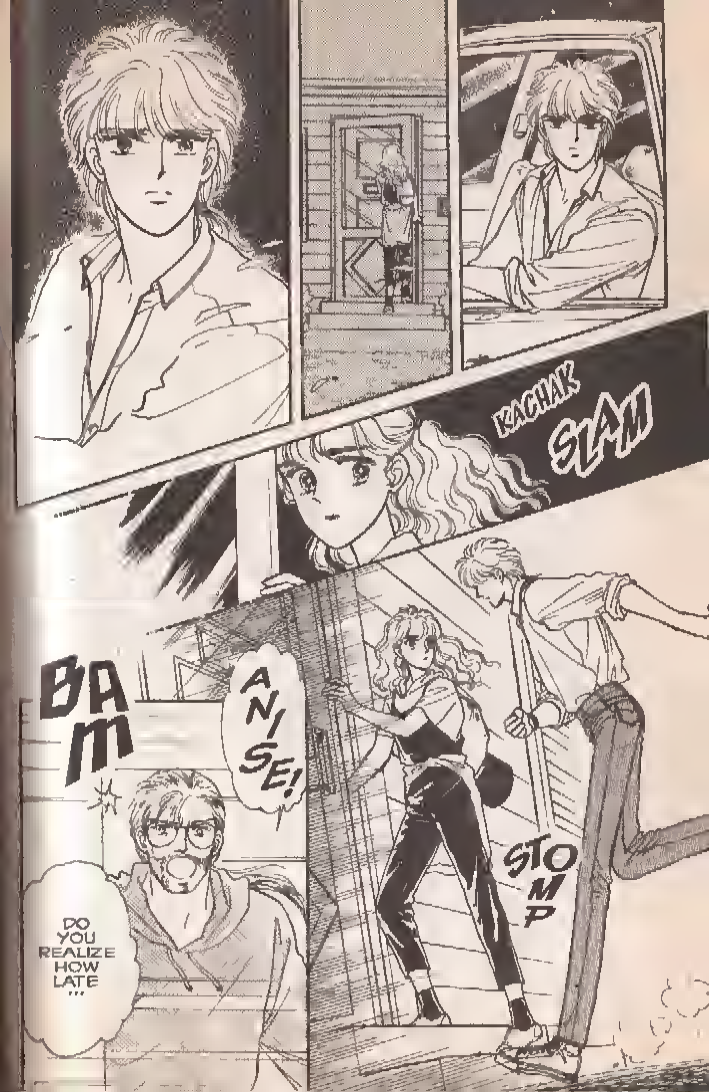

Tom spoke for his version of excitement with a kick in
CLICK
HEY,
CAN I TURN ON THE RADIO?
SURE.
UM...
I DON'T MEAN TO BE A PEST, BUT...
WHEN YOU WERE MAD EARLIER...
... WAS IT REALLY NOT MY FAULT?
IT'S NOT YOU.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO WORRY ABOUT IT.
.....
BUT...

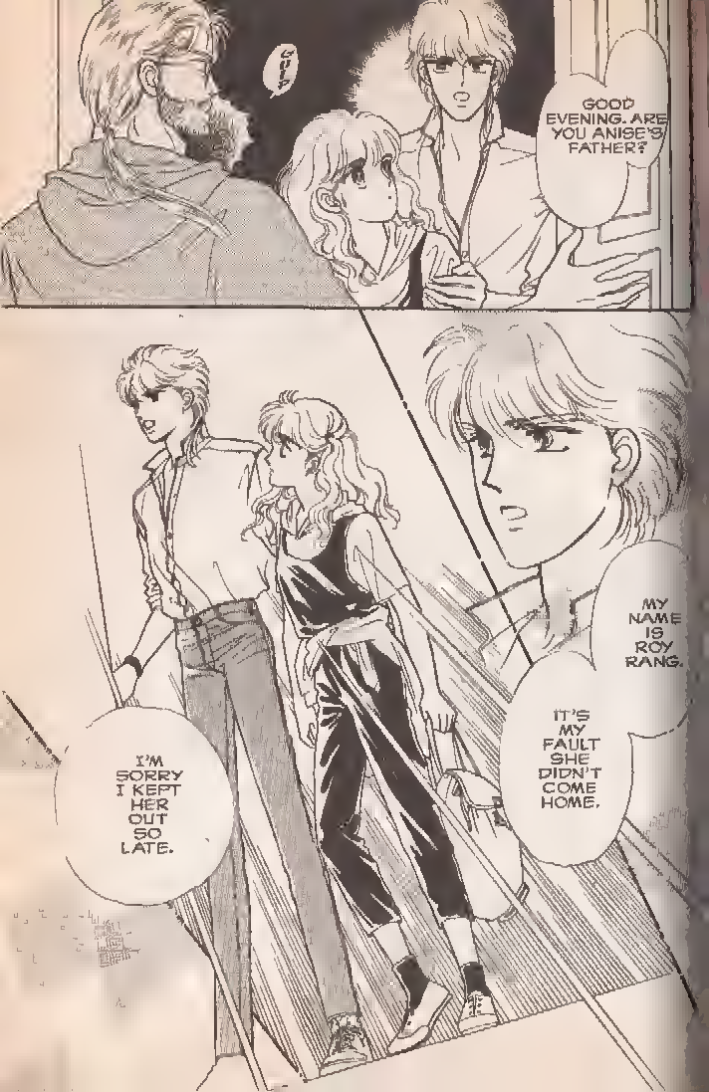
AH.. NO!
I WASN'T PLANNING TO COME BACK...
...BUT I SCREWED UP AND WENT DOWN THE WRONG STREET.
EH?
DID YOU GO THROUGH THAT STREET BECAUSE YOU HEADED BACK TO MY PLACE?
WAIT A SEC!
!
.....
I'M SORRY.

STRONG...
SO STRONG THAT I CAN GO WITHOUT HURTING PEOPLE.
I WAS IRRITABLE.
AND I WAS TAKING IT OUT ON YOU.
IT'S MY FAULT.
HUH?
OH, NO...
BUT REALLY, CIPHER?
YOU WERE SERIOUSLY TAKING IT OUT ON ME?
I'M NOT AS MATURE AS YOU THINK I AM.
I... I'M...
I WANT TO BE STRONG.

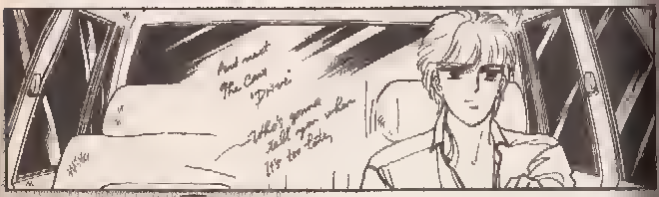
EVEN SO, WILL YOU...
...WILL YOU STILL BE MY FRIEND?
NO...
...LET ME RE-PHRASE THAT.
I...
...I WANT YOU TO BE MY FRIEND!

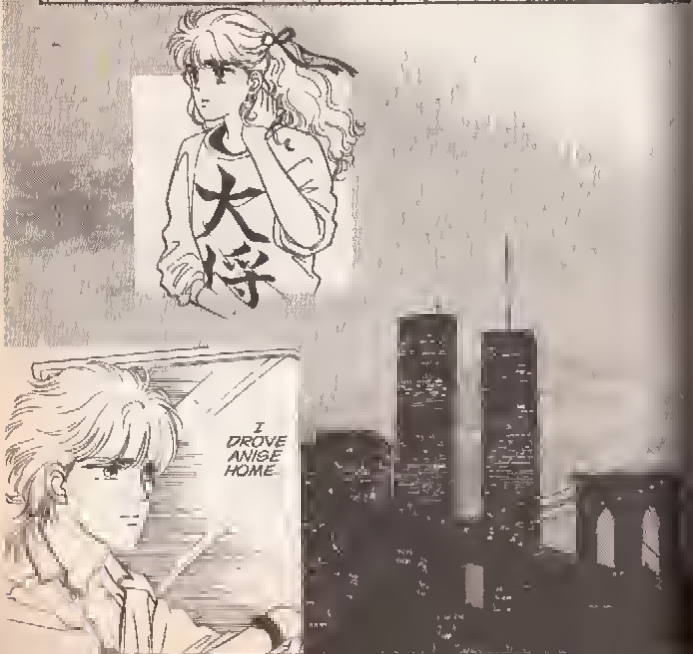

OF COURSE I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND!
I'D LOVE TO!
THANKS FOR BRINGING ME HOME.
OKAY.
GOOD NIGHT.
Bye bye.


KACHAK
SLAM
BAM
ANISE!
DO YOU REALIZE HOW LATE ...
STOMP


GOOD EVENING. ARE YOU ANISE'S FATHER?
GIL
MY NAME IS ROY RANG.
IT'S MY FAULT SHE DIDN'T COME HOME.
I'M SORRY I KEPT HER OUT SO LATE.

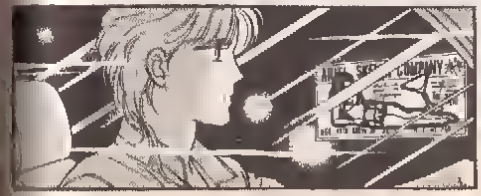
...WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME IN FOR SOME COFFEE?
WELL...
BUT IT'S LATE.
THANK YOU.
GOOD NIGHT, ANISE.
6


And meet the Cops Dinner
Today's special Kill Tyrone when it's his Birthday


大将
I DROVE ANIGE HOME

I WANT TO BE THE ONE WHO TAKES HER HOME.

PAN AM



WHEN I PUT A HAIR EXTENSION ON SIVA, AND DYED IT ORANGE EVERYBODY SAID THAT NOW HE LOOKS LIKE TOM. BUT THAT WAS BEFORE TOM WAS AROUND. I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT BLOND HAIR DYED ORANGE IS A BEAUTIFUL COLOR!

JAKE KAHN (SIVA)

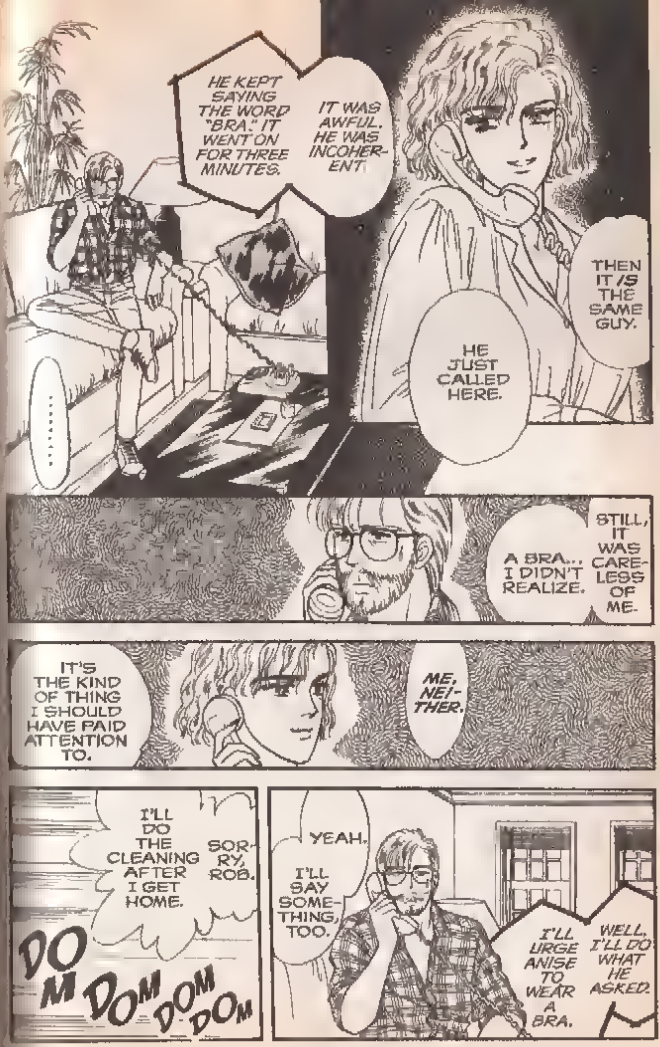
IT'S MORE LIKE ANNIE LENNOX OF THE EURYTHMICS. TOM'S HAIR IS REDDISH-BLONDE. AND I'VE LIKED PONY-TAILS FOR A LONG TIME BEFORE THIS SERIES STARTED. SHORT HAIR WAS POPULAR, BUT BECAUSE HAVING ONE LONG PART STARTED CATCHING ON, I ADDED THE EXTENSION. IT WAS SORT OF SUBCONSCIOUS. I JUST STARTED DRAWING IT ON ALL YEAR. I'VE BEEN WRITING ROMANCE STORIES, BUT STARTING IN THE BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR, I'M GOING TO HAVE THE STORY JUMP ALL OVER THE PLACE. PLEASE KEEP READING!

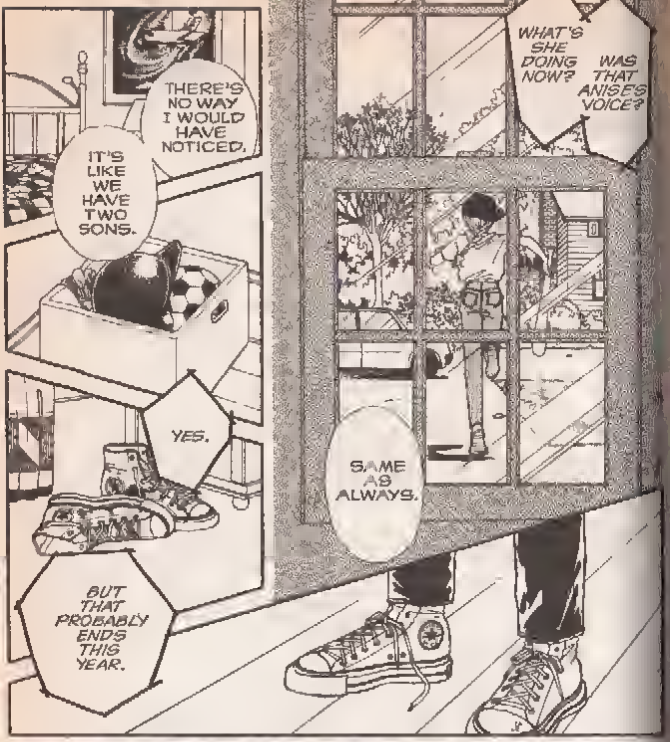
See You Again!

OH! THAT'S RIGHT!

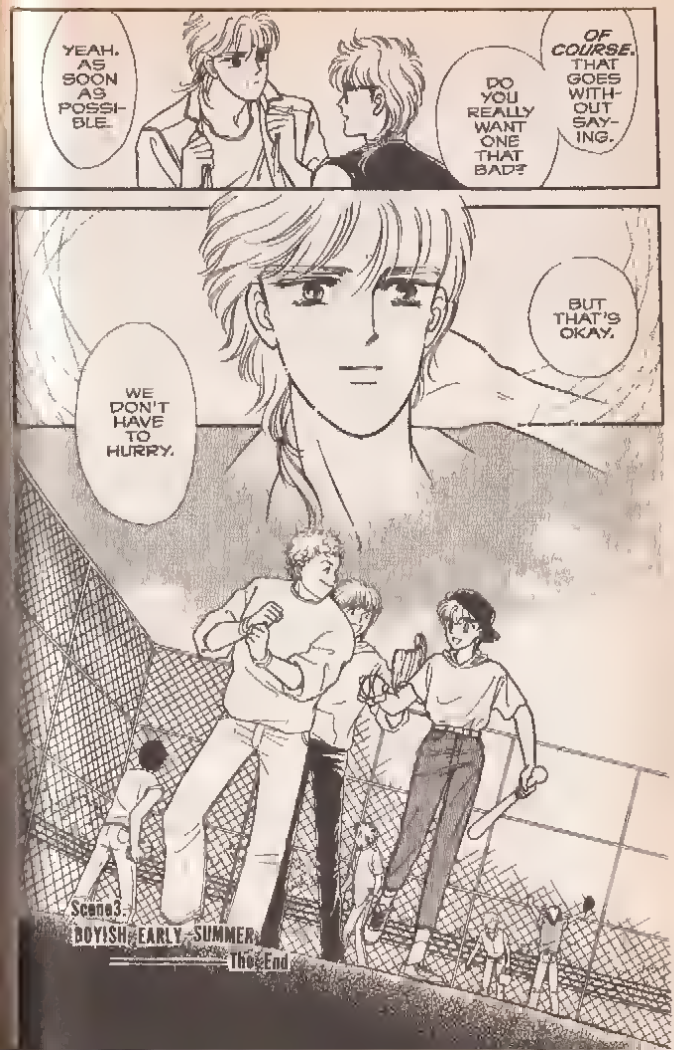
SAY...

... DIDN'T HE SAY HIS NAME WAS ROY RANG?


HE KEPT SAYING THE WORD "BRA." IT WENT ON FOR THREE MINUTES.
IT WAS AWFUL. HE WAS INCOHERENT.
THEN IT IS THE SAME GUY.
HE JUST CALLED HERE.
.....
STILL, IT WAS CARELESS OF ME.
A BRA... I DIDN'T REALIZE.
IT'S THE KIND OF THING I SHOULD HAVE PAID ATTENTION TO.
ME, NEITHER.
I'LL DO THE CLEANING AFTER I GET HOME.
SORRY, ROB.
DO DOM DOM DOM DOM
YEAH.
I'LL SAY SOMETHING, TOO.
I'LL URGE ANISE TO WEAR A BRA.
WELL, I'LL DO WHAT HE ASKED.


THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD HAVE NOTICED.
IT'S LIKE WE HAVE TWO SONS.
YES.
BUT THAT PROBABLY ENDS THIS YEAR.
SAME AS ALWAYS.
WHAT'S SHE DOING NOW?
WAS THAT ANISE'S VOICE?

JAKE.
WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL WE GET BACK TO BUY A CAR.


YEAH. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
DO YOU REALLY WANT ONE THAT BAD?
OF COURSE. THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.
BUT THAT'S OKAY.
WE DON'T HAVE TO HURRY.
Scene3: BOYISH EARLY SUMMER
The End